



# IMPERIAL GAZETTEER.

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JUBBULPORE DIVISION.



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# JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

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## JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

Jubbulpore Division (*Jabalpur*).—The northern Division of the Central Provinces, extending from 21° 36' to 24° 27' N. and from 78° 4' to 81° 45' E. The headquarters of the Commissioner are at JUBBULPORE CITY. The Division contains five Districts as shown below :—

District.	Area in square miles. <sup>1</sup>	Population in 1901. <sup>2</sup>	Land revenue and cesses, 1903-04, in thousands of rupees.
Saugor	3,962	469,479	5,52
Damoh	2,516	255,320	3,69
Jubbulpore	3,912	680,555	9,67
Mandla	5,051	318,400	1,97
Sconi	3,200	327,709	3,13
Total	18,550	2,081,493	24,18

Of these Saugor and Damoh and the Murwara tahsil of Jubbulpore lie on the Vindhyan plateau to the north. The southern part of Jubbulpore is situated at the head of the narrow valley through which the Narmada river flows between the Vindhyan and Satpura ranges; while Sconi and Mandla form part of the Satpura plateau to the south. The Division therefore consists generally of hilly country, lying at a considerable elevation and enjoying a comparatively temperate climate. In 1881 the population of the Division was 2,201,573, from which it increased in 1901 to 2,375,610 or by 8 per cent. The increase was considerably less than the average for the Province, the decade having been an unhealthy one, especially in Saugor and Damoh. In 1901 the population was 2,081,916, a decrease of 12 per cent. on the figures of 1891. Since the census a small transfer of territory has taken place and the adjusted population is 2,081,493. All Districts

<sup>1</sup> The District figures of area and population have been adjusted to allow for some small transfers of territory which have taken place since the census of 1901.

**JUBBULPORE** of the Division suffered severely from famine during the  
**DIVISION** decade. In 1901 Hindus numbered 74 per cent. of the population and Animists 20 per cent. There were 89,731 Musalmáns, 29,918 Jains, and 5,878 Christians, of whom 2,706 were Europeans and Eurasians. The area of the Division is 18,957 square miles, and the density of population 110 persons per square mile as compared with 112 for British Districts of the Province. It contains 11 towns and 8,561 inhabited villages, but JUBBULPORE (90,316) and SAUGOR (42,330) are the only towns with a population of more than 20,000. Thirteen miles from Jubbulpore, at a gorge overhanging the Narbadá river, are the well-known Marble Rocks.

**SAUGOR**  
**DISTRICT.**  
 Boundaries,  
 configuration,  
 and hill and  
 river systems

**Saugor District (Ságar).**—A District of the Jubbulpore Division situated in the extreme north-west of the Central Provinces, between 23° 9' and 24° 27' N. and 78° 4' and 79° 22' E., with an area of 2,962 square miles. It forms with Damoh an extension of the great Malwa plateau, and consists of a flat open black soil tract about 1,000 feet above the level of the Narbadá valley, from which it is separated by the steep escarpment of the Vindhyan hills. It is bounded on the north by the Jhansi District of the United Provinces and by the Native States of Panná, Bijáwar and Charkháñi; on the east by Panná and the Damoh District; on the south by the Narsinghpur District and the Native State of Bhopál; and on the west by the Bhopál and Gwalior States. The District is narrowest at its south-eastern corner, and slopes towards the north-east, gradually extending in width until it culminates in the heights overlooking the Bundelkhand plain. The country is generally undulating, with numerous isolated hills. The most open parts are the plain forming the Khurá tahsil on the north-west, and that which consists of the Garhá-kotá, Rehlí and Deorí *parganas* on the south-east. East of the Khurá tahsil, which is separated from Saugor and Bandá by a low range of hills, the character of the country is very broken, low flat-topped hills rising from the plain in all directions, some covered with trees, others stony and barren. On the south-east and north-east of the District lie thick belts of forest. The drainage of the country is almost entirely to the north and east, the watershed of the

Narbadā commencing only from the summit of the range <sup>SAUGOR DISTRICT.</sup> immediately overlooking it. The principal rivers are the SONĀR, the Bewas, the DHĪSĀN, the Bīna, and the BETWĀ. Of these the Sonār, Bewas, and Dhasān flow from south-west to north-east, the course of the last named being more northerly than that of the other two. The Bīna flows through the extreme west of the District, and the Betwā marks for some distance the border separating the northern portion of the Khurai tahsil from Gwalior State. Two small streams, the Biranj and Sindhor, take their rise in the Depā purgana of the Rohil tahsil and flow south to the Narbadā.

The greater part of the District is covered by the Deccan Geolgi. trap, but there are two great outliers of Vindhyan sandstone, one to the north running down nearly as far as Saugor, and the other to the east extending from near Garhākotā to beyond Surkhī. To the east or south-east of Saugor the infra-trappean or Lameta limestone is largely developed. Calcareous inter-trappean bands with fossilised shells and plants also occur largely near Saugor.

The Vindhyan hills are generally poorly wooded. Saugor Botany. contains some almost pure teak forest in the west near Jaisinghnagar and Rāhatgarh, and teak mixed with other species elsewhere. Sandalwood is found in small areas, and bamboos occupy the slopes of most of the hills. The bamboo is fairly well reproduced by seed, but the forests are full of dead trees, and are in poor condition for the most part. Belts of *chīulā* or *palās* (*Butea frondosa*) are found in the rich black soil of the open plateaux, and of plains at the foot of the hills such as those near Saugor. The cultivated portions of the District are marked by the presence near villages of scattered trees or groves of mango, tamarind, *mahuā* (*Bassia latifolia*) and *pīpal*.

Among wild animals, *sāmbār*, blue bull, and spotted deer Fauna. are numerous and hogs are still more common. Four-horned deer, barking deer and mouse deer are occasionally met with. Herds of antelope are found all over the open country, especially in the Khurai tahsil. Land game birds, such as pen-fowl, spur-fowl, sand-grouse, partridges, and green pigeon, are fairly numerous, but water-fowl are not plentiful owing



SAUGOR  
DISTRICT.

to the absence of tanks. Mahseer of small size are numerous in most of the rivers, and murrel (*Ophiocephalus striatus*) are caught in every tank.

Climate and  
Rainfall.

The climate of the District is pleasant considering the latitude. The minimum temperature is about  $41^{\circ}$  in the cold weather, and the maximum summer heat about  $112^{\circ}$ . The District is healthy during the greater part of the year. The average annual rainfall is 47 inches. Failures of crops appear on the whole to have been caused in equal degree by deficiency and by excess of rainfall.

## History.

The early history of Saugor is mainly a matter of tradition. The old capital, Garhpahá, 7 miles north of the present city, is supposed to have been founded by a Gond dynasty. The Gonds were succeeded by a tribe of Ahírs called the Fauládia, to whom is attributed the foundation of the fort at Rehlí. Some Ahír landholders still claim to be their descendants and bear the title of Rao. About 1023 the Ahírs were supplanted by one Nihálshá, a Rájput of Jálaun, who took possession of Saugor and the surrounding country. Nihálshá's descendants retained possession for about 600 years, but are said to have been defeated by the Chandels of Mahobá and subjected to tribute. The two Banáphar warriors of the Chandel Rájás, Alhá and Udal, are popular heroes, and their 52 battles are celebrated in song. Alhá is still supposed to live in the forests of Orehhá and nightly to kindle the lamp in a temple of Deví on a hill in the forest. Saugor itself was founded in 1660 by Udan Shá, a Dángi chief, said to be one of Nihálshá's descendants, who built a small fort on the site of the present one and settled the village of Parkotá, which is now part of the town. The grandson of Udan Shá, Prithwípat, a man of weak intellect, was dispossessed by Chhatarsál, the famous Bundelá Rájá. He was restored by the Rájá of Jaipur, but was again ousted by the Muhammadán chief of Kurwai, and retired to Bilebrá, which with four other villages is still held free of revenue by his descendants. In 1735 Saugor was taken by a nephew of Bájí Rao, the Maráthá Peshwá, who left his lieutenant, Govind Rao Pandit, in charge of the conquered territory. Govind Rao

paid great attention to the improvement of the town and SAUGOR  
surrounding country. The fort of Saugor as it now stands DISTRICT.  
was built by him, and the town grew into a city under his  
administration and became the capital of this part of the  
country. He was killed in 1761 at the battle of Pánipat,  
and the Peshwá gave Saugor and the surrounding country  
revenue-free to his descendants, who continued to hold  
possession until it was ceded to the British. During their  
rule the city was sacked three times, twice by Amír Khán,  
Pindári, and once by Sindhia after a long siege in 1814. In  
1818 Saugor was ceded to the British by the Peshwá, and  
became part of the Saugor and Nerbudda territories, which  
were for a time attached to the North-Western Provinces.  
In March 1812 occurred what is known as the Bandelá insurrec-  
tion. Two Bandelá landholders, who had been served with civil  
court decrees, rose in rebellion and sacked several towns. They  
were joined by a Gond chief, and disaffection extended into the  
adjoining District of Narsinghpur. In the following year the  
revolt was put down, but the District had suffered severely and  
the land revenue was realised with difficulty for several years.

In 1857 the garrison of Saugor consisted of two  
regiments of native infantry and one of cavalry, with a  
few European gunners. Shortly after the commencement of  
the Mutiny the European residents moved into the fort.  
The regiments remained in their lines for a short time, when  
the 42nd and the 3rd irregular cavalry mutinied, the 31st  
regiment remaining faithful. The two mutinous regiments  
moved off towards Shábgarh, a Native State on the north of the  
District; the Rájás of Shábgarh and Rámpur then entered  
the District and took possession of the greater part of it.  
At the same time the Nawáb of Garhí Amárpáni, a place now in  
Bhópál, occupied Ráhatgarh. The whole District was thus in  
the hands of the rebels, the Europeans holding only the town and  
fort of Saugor. This state of things continued for about eight  
months, during which time three indecisive engagements were  
fought. In February 1858 Sir Hugh Rose arrived at Ráhat-  
garh with the Central India Field Force, defeated the rebels,  
and took the fort. Thence he passed on to Barodíá  
Naunagar, about 10 miles from Ráhatgarh, where he met and

SAUGOR  
DISTRICT.

defeated the troops of the Rájá of Bánpur, and then came into Saugor. All the rebels about Ráhatgarh and Khurai now fled. Passing through Saugor Sir Hugh Rose went on to Garhákotá, where he met and defeated the Rájá of Sháhgarh's troops, and took the fort, in which the rebels had left a large quantity of treasure and property of all kinds. He then came back to Saugor and marched towards Jhánsi, meeting the remainder of the Sháhgarh Rájá's troops at Madanpur and defeating them with great slaughter. By the beginning of March 1858 a regular administration was restored, and the police and revenue offices re-established. The dominions of the Sháhgarh Rájá were confiscated, and a part of them was added to the Saugor District.

## Archæology.

Dhámoni, 29 miles north of Saugor, contains a large fort almost in ruins and surrounded by jungle. At Khimlāna, 42 miles north-west of Saugor, and the old headquarters of the Khurai tahsíl, are situated a fort and a Muhammadan tomb, the walls of the latter being of perforated screen work. Of the numerous other forts in the District, the largest is that at Ráhatgarh, 25 miles west of Saugor, which is ascribed to the Muhammadan rulers of Bhopál. The outer walls consist of 26 enormous round towers, some of which were used as dwellings, connected by curtain walls and enclosing a space of 66 acres. Within is a palace called the Bádal Mahal or Cloud Palace from its great height. There are also forts at Rohlí, GARHAKOTA, KHURAI, DEORI and Jaisinghnagar, with masonry walls protected by massive towers, but these are now for the most part in ruins.

## The people.

At the census of 1901, Saugor contained 5 towns, SAUGOR, GARHAKOTA, ETÁWA, KHURAI, and DEORI, and 1,994 villages. The population at the last three enumerations has been as follows: 1891, 564,950; 1891, 591,743; 1901, 471,046. Both in 1881 and 1891 the rate of increase was far below that of the Province as a whole, owing to a long succession of partially unfavourable seasons, which retarded the natural increase of population and also caused a certain amount of emigration to Central India. Between 1891 and 1901 Saugor with Damoh suffered from a more disastrous succession of failures of crops than any other

part of the Province. In 1902 a tract of 11 villages with some Government forest was transferred from Saugor to Narsinghpur, and the corrected totals of area and population are 3,962 square miles and 469,479 persons. The statistics of population in 1901 given below have been adjusted on account of this transfer :—

Tahsil.	Area in square miles.	Number of		Population	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Saugor ..	1,064	1	528	166,803	156	-19.8	9,043
Khurda ..	847	2	470	91,783	100	-25.6	3,722
Rehli ..	1,254	2	660	130,467	109	-17.3	4,431
Bandá ..	704	..	263	73,829	103	-16.5	1,976
District Total	3,869	5	1,921	469,479	118	-20.4	19,228

About 87 per cent. of the population are Hindus and 4 per cent. Animists, this proportion being very low in comparison with that of the Province as a whole. Muhammadans number 23,215, or 5 per cent. of the population, but 13,000 of these live in towns. There are more than 15,000 Jains in the District, or nearly a third of the total number in the Province. The language of Saugor is the Bundeli dialect of Western Hindi; which is spoken by almost the whole population. Only 3,800 persons speak Urdu and 6,500 Marathi. It is noticeable that the Marathi spoken in Saugor is the pure form of the language belonging to Poona, and not the Nagpur dialect. The forest tribes have entirely abandoned their own languages.

The principal land-holding castes in the District are The Bráhmans, Dángis, Lodhis, Kurmis, and Bundela Rajputs. Bráhmans (41,000) constitute nearly 9 per cent. of the population, and have come from the north and west of India. The north country Bráhmans have been in the District longest, and the Maráthas immigrated at the time when it came under their rule. The Dángis (21,000) were formerly a dominant caste, and Saugor was sometimes called Dángiwa after them. They are principally *malguzars* (landholders) and tenants; and rarely labourers. Lodhis (39,000) constitute 8 per cent. of the population. They had the reputation of being

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quarrelsome and fond of display, but are now losing these characteristics. Kurmis (22,000) are quiet and industrious cultivators and averse to litigation. The Bundelā Rājputs were a renowned free-booting tribe. They are proud and penurious to the last degree, and quick to resent the smallest slight. Even now it is said that no Baniā dare go past a Bundelā's house without getting down from his pony and folding up his umbrella. There are only one or two Muhammadan landowners of any importance. Of the forest tribes Gonds number 22,000 or about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the population and Savarās 13,000 or rather less than 3 per cent. The Gond Rājā of Pithuā was formerly a feudatory of the Mandlā dynasty, holding a considerable portion of the south of the District. Both Gonds and Savarās in this District are comparatively civilized and have partially adopted Hindu usage. About 65 per cent. of the total population are supported by agriculture.

Christian  
Missions.

Christians number 1,357, of whom 665 are Roman Catholics, 230 Lutherans, and 443 belong to the Church of England. Of the total number 769 are natives. There are Swedish, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic Missions, of which the former is located at Saugor and Khurai and the latter at Shyāmpurā. Etāwa contains a station of the Christian Mission, a body which has no sectarian tenets.

General  
cultural  
conditions.

The prevalent soil is a dark coloured loam of varying depth, which has been formed partly by lacustrine deposit and partly by the disintegration of the trap rock, the loose particles of which are washed off the hills into the depressions below. This soil is locally known as *mund*, and is much prized because it is easily workable, and not so favourable to the growth of rank grass as the more clayey soils found in other parts. It occupies 56 per cent. of the area in cultivation. *Kābar*, or good black soil, covers 2 per cent., and *raiyan*, or thin black soil, 10 per cent. of the area in cultivation. The other soils are inferior and unsuitable for wheat. The soil of the Khurai tahsil contains a large admixture of clay, and hence is somewhat stiff and more difficult to cultivate than that of Saugor and the open part of Rehlī. The most serious obstacle to cultivation in the Saugor District is

the coarse *khus* grass (*Saccharum spontaneum*); this rapidly invades black soil when left fallow, and when once it has obtained a hold, covers the whole field with a net-work of roots, and can scarcely be eradicated by the ordinary country plough. *Khus* flourishes particularly in the clayey soil of the Khurai tahsil, and during the period of adverse seasons has covered large areas of fertile land. Attempts are now being made to eradicate it by means of embankments which will keep the fields under water during the rains.

About 2½ square miles of land taken from Government forests are held on ryotwari tenure; 1½ square miles by revenue-free grantees; and the balance on the ordinary proprietary tenures. The main agricultural statistics for 1903-04 are given below, areas being in square miles:—

Tahsil.	Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated.	Culturable waste.	Forests.
Saugor ...	1,071	435	3	437	121
Khurai ...	910	238	1	670	121
Rehli ...	1,254	413	1	417	327
Banda ...	701	227	4	217	150
Total ...	3,962	1,313	8½	1,626	759

Formerly the wheat crop far overshadowed any other in the Saugor District. In 1891-92 the area under wheat was 805 square miles, but it then began to decline owing to a succession of bad seasons, and fell to 153 square miles in 1896-97. There has now been some recovery, and the figures for 1903-04 show 466 square miles under wheat or 37 per cent. of the cropped area. Gram has been steadily growing in popularity, both because it has a recuperative effect on the soil, and is a less expensive crop to cultivate than wheat. It occupies 146 square miles or 12 per cent. of the cropped area. Linseed has been affected by the unfavourable seasons no less than wheat, and now occupies 50 square miles or 4½ per cent. of the cropped area. Jowar has in recent years greatly increased in popularity, as it is a cheap food crop and very little seed is required for it. At

Saugor District.

Chief agricultural statistics and crops.

SAUGOR  
DISTRICT.

present the area under it is 171 square miles or 14 per cent. of the total. *Kodon* covers 70 square miles or more than 5 per cent. of the whole area. There are 20 square miles under cotton and 26 under rice. *Til* and *ramtilli* (*Guizotia abyssinica*) occupy 72 square miles. Betel-vine gardens are found in Saugor, Baloh, Sahajpur and Jaisinghnagar, and the leaf of Balch has some reputation.

Improvements  
in agricultural  
practice.

At the time of settlement (1892-93) the cropped area amounted to about 1,000 square miles, but the prolonged agricultural depression has now (1905) reduced it to about 1,250. It may be anticipated that with good harvests the more valuable spring crops will continue to recover the ground lost by them during the unfavourable seasons. During the recent bad seasons large advances of agricultural loans have been made, the total sum given out between 1871 and 1904 amounting to more than 8 lakhs. Of this sum about Rs. 50,000 have been remitted. Loans for the improvement of land have been taken to a much smaller extent, but over Rs. 50,000 were advanced between 1891 and 1904 for the construction of embankments for wheat fields.

Cattle, ponies  
and sheep.

Most of the cattle in the District are bred locally, and are small but hardy, though no care is exercised in breeding, and special bulls are not kept for this purpose. Superior plough-cattle are imported from Málwā and Gwalior, but not in large numbers. Buffaloes are not used for cultivation, but they are kept for the manufacture of *ghí*, and the young bulls are taken by road to Chhattisgarh and sold there. Ponies are bred in the District, but not to so large an extent as formerly. They are of very small size and are used both for riding and pack carriage. Since the extension of metalled roads the people prefer to travel in bullock-carts. Mules are bred in small numbers for sale to the Military department. Donkeys are used only as pack animals by the lowest castes.

## Irrigation.

Only 5,500 acres or 1 per cent. of the total was irrigated in 1903-04, and this area consists principally of rice or garden crops. Irrigation from temporary wells is common in the north of the Bandā tahsil, where the light soils respond more readily to it. The embanking of fields to hold up moisture

for wheat cultivation is scarcely practised at all in this District, but a few banks have been erected to prevent surface scouring on uneven land. Some of the leading landholders have, however, now adopted the practice of embanking their fields, and experimental ombankments have been constructed by Government.

SAUGOR -  
DISTRICT.

The Government forests cover a total area of 755 square miles or rather less than 19 per cent. of that of the District. There are large areas in the hills of the north and south, and a series of scattered blocks on the range running from north-east to south-west. Teak, *adj* (*Terminalia tomentosa*), *chind* or *palda* (*Butea frondosa*) and bamboos are the principal timber trees. Teak is fairly common, but the timber is inferior. The *palda* scrub forest, found in the plains, is of an open nature, and the trees are freely propagated by seed, but the seedlings are often destroyed by the winter frosts and by fires in the hot weather. Among minor products may be noticed charcoal which is sold to the iron-workers of Tendūkhedā in Narsinghpur and the *rāsa* or *tikā-i* grass (*Andropogon schænanthus*) used in the manufacture of scent. The forests of Bandā are rich in *mahū* trees, which are of great value in times of scarcity. The forest revenue for 1903-04 was Rs. 47,000.

Iron is found in the north of the District in Hīrāpur and other villages of the Shābgarh *pargana*, and is still worked by hand smelting, but the industry has greatly declined. Sandstone quarries occur in several places, from which building stone of a good quality is obtained, the best being at Rāhatgarh and Maswāsi just north of Saugor. The earthen vessels made of red clay in Shābgarh have a local reputation.

Weaving and dyeing are carried on principally in Sengor, Rehli, Deori, Goujāmar and Garbākotā; brass working in Deori, Khurai and Mālthone; iron work in Rāhatgarh; and the manufacture of glass bangles in Garbākotā, Pithoriā, and Rāhatgarh. In Pithoriā glass beads and rudra phials for holding scent are also made. Gold and silver work is produced in Saugor, Khurai and Etāwa, but many of the Sonārs have fallen back on the manufacture of ornaments

Arts and  
Manufac-  
tures.



SAUGOR  
DISTRICT.

from boll-metal. The local industries are generally, as elsewhere in the Province, in a depressed condition. There are no factories in Saugor.

## Commerce.

The principal exports consist of food-grains, and until lately those of wheat were of far greater importance than all others combined. But in recent years the exports of wheat have declined almost to vanishing point, though with favourable harvests they will probably soon recover. At present the most important articles of export are the oilseeds, *til* and linseed. Cotton and hemp are exported to some extent; also *ghí* in large quantities, dried meat (to Burma), hides, horns and bones, and forest produce. Betel-vine leaves are sent to the United Provinces, and the skins and horns of antelope are sold for ornamental purposes. The imports are principally cotton piece-goods, kerosene oil, metals, all minor articles of hardware, groceries and spices. Country cloth comes principally from the Bombay mills; unrefined sugar is imported from the United Provinces, refined sugar from Bombay and Cawnpore, and tobacco from Cawnpore and Bengal. Nearly all the salt used comes from the Pachbhadrá salt marshes in Jodhpur.

Railways and  
Roads.

Before the opening of the railway from Bina to Katni nearly the whole trade of the Saugor District went to Kureli station in the Narsinghpur District by the Saugor-Kureli road, crossing the Nerbada at Barmhán; but at present the bulk of the trade of the District is concentrated at Saugor station. The three southern *parganas* of the Reliá tahsil, Náharmow, Gaurjhámar, and Deorí, still send their exports to Kureli, while the Sháhgarh *pargana* in the north of the Banda tahsil has a certain amount of traffic with Cawnpore by road. The branch line from Bina, on the Great Indian Peninsula, to Katni, on the East Indian Railway, passes through the centre of the Saugor District. The length of this railway within the District is 71 miles, and there are seven stations, of which Bina, Khurai, Saugor, and Sháhpur are trade centres. The main line of the Indian Midland Railway from Itársi to Cawnpore also runs through the north-west of the Khurai tahsil for seventeen miles, and the stations of Bámora, Karondá and Agásode are situated on it, while another branch

leads from Bina to Báran. The principal roads are those leading from Saugor to Kareli, Ráhatgarh, and Rehli, to Cawnpore through Bandá, to Damoh through Garhákotá, and to Jhánsi through Máthone. Of these the Kareli and Ráhatgarh roads are metalled throughout, the Rehli road for most of its length, and the Cawnpore and Jhánsi roads for a few miles out of Saugor. The importance of the Kareli road has now largely decreased. The total length of metalled roads in the District is 117 miles and of unmetalled roads 162 miles; the annual expenditure on maintenance is about Rs. 50,000. A few minor roads are maintained by the District council, but all others are in charge of the Public Works department. The length of existing avenues is 185 miles.

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DISTRICT.

There is little on record of the agricultural history of the Saugor District prior to the 30 years' settlement of 1867, but severe failures of crops are known to have occurred more than once during the first half of the century and also in the years 1854 to 1856. In 1868-69 the autumn harvest failed entirely owing to drought, and some distress was felt by the poorer classes. In 1878, 1890, and 1890 the harvests were poor, and there was again a certain amount of privation. The spring crops were below the average in 1892-93, and in 1893-94 and 1894-95 they failed almost entirely from excessive winter rains. Relief works were opened in 1894, but the people did not resort to them in large numbers. In 1895-96 both crops were again seriously injured by drought, and in 1896-97 an almost complete failure caused severe famine. Relief operations were in progress during the whole of 1897. The total expenditure exceeded 12 lakhs, and the maximum daily number of persons on relief was 58,000 in May 1897. In 1898-99 Saugor had a poor spring crop, and in 1899-1900 the autumn crops failed entirely though the spring crops gave an average outturn. There was again famine in this year, though far less severe in Saugor than over most of the Province. Nearly 11 lakhs were spent on relief and the numbers rose to 87,000 in August 1900. It will thus be seen that the District has lately passed through a most severe and protracted period of agricultural depression.

Famine.

SAUGOR  
DISTRICT.  
District sub-  
divisions and  
staff.

The head of the District is the Deputy Commissioner, who is also District Magistrate, and has three executive Assistants. For administrative purposes the District is divided into four tahsils, each of which has a tahsildár and naib-tahsildár except Bandá, which has only a tahsildár. An Executive Engineer and Forest Officer are stationed at Saugor.

Civil and  
Criminal Jus-  
tice.

The civil judicial staff consists of a District and a Sub-ordinate Judge, with a Munsiff at each tahsil. The Divisional and Sessions Judge of Jubbulpore has superior civil and criminal jurisdiction. The crime of the District is somewhat heavy as compared with other parts of the Central Provinces. Robberies and dacoities are comparatively frequent, and cattle-stealing and simple theft are also common offences. Opium-smuggling from the adjoining Native States is prevalent.

Land Revenue  
administra-  
tion.

Under the Maráthá revenue system villages were farmed out to the highest bidder, and any rights or consideration which the village headmen may have enjoyed in the past were almost entirely effaced. No legal status was given to tenants, and the older cultivators were only protected by custom, which enjoined that, so long as the annual rent demanded was paid, their tenure should be hereditary and continuous. The land revenue history of the District during the period following the cession in 1818 consists of a series of abortive attempts to raise a revenue equal to or exceeding that of the Maráthá government, when the people had become impoverished by the exactions of that government during the last period of its rule, and the depredations of the Pindáris. The demand at cession was a little short of six lakhs. A series of annual and short-term settlements ensued till 1835, when a twenty years' settlement was made and the revenue fixed at Rs. 6,27,000. This settlement did not work well, and the disturbances of 1842 seriously injured the District, necessitating a general reduction of revenue varying from 10 to 20 per cent. Large remissions of the ordinary demand were also frequently made during the currency of this settlement. In 1854 revision of settlement was commenced, but owing to the Mutiny and other causes was not completed throughout the District until 1867. The effect of this settlement was to reduce the revenue to Rs. 4,64,000. On this

On occasion the village headmen received, according to the general policy of the Central Provinces Administration, proprietary and transferable rights in their villages. The settlement was for the term of 30 years and under it the District prospered, the cropped area increasing from 1,040 to 1,250 square miles. In 1891, after a preliminary cadastral survey had been completed, a new settlement commenced, but owing to interruptions caused by famine it was not completed until 1897. The revenue then fixed amounted to nearly Rs. 6,96,000. In spite of the enhanced revenue the share of the assets left to the proprietors was considerably larger than at the former settlement. But the successive failures of crops have so greatly reduced both the area in cultivation and the value of the crops grown that the District has been unable to pay the revised demand and successive reductions have been made. The revenue as now fixed (1903-04) is Rs. 5,00,000, the average incidence per acre being R. 0-10-3 (maximum R. 0-13-7, minimum R. 0-5-11); while that of the rental is R. 1-1-6 (maximum R. 1-7-0, minimum R. 0-10-10). The total revenue receipts in the District have varied as shown below (in thousands of rupees):—

SAUGOR DISTRICT.

		1880-81.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-04.
Land revenue	...	4.43	4.52	4.91	4.96
Total revenue	...	7.23	7.07	7.34	7.51

The management of local affairs outside municipal areas is entrusted to a District council under which are four local boards each having jurisdiction over one tahsil. The income of the District council in 1903-04 was Rs. 74,000. The main items of expenditure were education Rs. 20,000, civil works Rs. 18,000 and medical relief Rs. 9,000. SAUGOR, DEORI, and KHURAI are municipal towns. Local Boards and Municipalities.

The sanctioned strength of the police force is 653 of all ranks. This includes a special reserve of 2 officers and 23 men, 7 mounted constables, and cantonment police numbering 81. In proportion to area and population the police force is stronger in Saugor than in any other District of the Police and Jails.

**SAUGOR DISTRICT.**

Central Provinces, owing to the fact that it is surrounded by Native States, and thieves and dacoits find it easy to escape across the border. There are 1,523 village watchmen for 1,929 inhabited towns and villages. Saugor has a first class District jail with accommodation for 145 male and 22 female prisoners. The average daily number of prisoners in 1904 was 91.

**Education.**

In respect of education Saugor stands sixth among the Districts of the Central Provinces, 7·7 per cent. of its male population being able to read and write. Only 919 females were returned as literate in 1901, but this is probably an understatement, as the people object to admitting that their women can read and write. Statistics of the number of pupils under instruction are as follows:—1890-91, 5,255; 1892-91, 5,959; 1900-01, 6,339; 1903-04, 8,401, of whom 1,331 were girls. Owing to the prevalence of famine in 1900-01 the numbers were reduced, but a great advance has been made since. The educational institutions comprise a Government high school at Saugor, 20 middle and 113 primary schools. Notwithstanding the small number of its women shown by the census as literate, Saugor is one of the most advanced Districts in the Province in respect of female education. The expenditure on education in 1903-04 was Rs. 74,000, of which Rs. 7,000 were provided from fees and Rs. 67,000 from Provincial and local funds.

**Hospitals and Dispensaries.**

The District has eight dispensaries, with accommodation for 97 in-patients; the total attendance at all of them in 1904 was 71,108 persons; including 653 in-patients, and 2,549 operations were performed. The expenditure in that year was Rs. 15,000, chiefly derived from local funds, and they possess Rs. 6,800 invested capital.

**Vaccination.**

Vaccination is only compulsory in the municipal towns of Saugor, Khurai and Deori. In 1903-04 the number of persons successfully vaccinated was 34 per 1,000 of the population.

(E. A. Do Brett, *Settlement Report*, 1901. A District Gazetteer is being compiled.)

**SAUGOR TAHSIL.**

Saugor Tahsil.—Headquarters tahsil of the Saugor District, Central Provinces, lying between 23° 31' and 24° 1' N.

and 78° 14' and 79° 6' E., with an area of 1,064 square miles. The population in 1901 was 166,399 persons and in 1891 207,456. The density of population per square mile is 166 persons, or considerably higher than the District average. The tahsil contains one town SAUGOR, the District and tahsil headquarters, population 42,330, and 525 inhabited villages. Excluding 124 square miles of Government forest, 57 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 435 square miles. The lie of the country is undulating and stretches of good culturable land alternate with small hills and patches of forest. The land revenue demand in 1903-04 was Rs. 1,85,000 and that for cesses Rs. 19,000.

SAUGOR  
TAHSIL.

**Khurai Tahsil (Kurai)**—The north-western tahsil of the Saugor District, Central Provinces, lying between 23° 51' and 24° 27' N. and 78° 4' and 78° 43' E., with an area of 910 square miles. The population in 1901 was 93,758 persons, and in 1891 126,004. The tahsil contains two towns, KHURAI, the tahsil headquarters, population 6,012, and ETAWA (6,116) and 470 inhabited villages. The density of population is 100 persons per square mile, which is below the District average. Excluding 124 square miles of Government forest, 45 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 238 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 77,000 and that for cesses Rs. 8,000. The tahsil is an open undulating plain with a stretch of hilly and stony land in the north, and belts of forest on the borders of the Bina and Betwa rivers.

KHURAI  
TAHSIL.

**Rehli.**—The southern tahsil of the Saugor District, Central Provinces, lying between 23° 9' and 23° 54' N. and 78° 36' and 79° 22' E., with an area of 1,299 square miles in 1901. Population decreased to 153,030 in 1901, from 171,000 in 1891. In 1902 eleven villages and 30 square miles of Government forest were transferred to Nar-singhpur, and the revised totals of area and population are 1,254 square miles and 136,463 persons. The density of population per square mile is 100 persons, or less than the District average. The tahsil contains two towns, GARNAKOTA, population 8,505, and DRONI (4,080), and 660 inhabited villages. The headquarters of the tahsil are at Rehli, a village of 3,605 inhabitants, distant 20 miles

REHLI.

**REHLI.** from Saugor by road, and situated at the junction of the Sová and Dehár rivers. The land revenue demand in 1903-04 was Rs. 1,71,000 and that for cesses Rs. 18,000. Excluding 327 square miles of Government forest, 69 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 443 square miles. The tahsil contains some fertile plain country round Garhákotá and Deorí, with stretches of poor hilly land on the western and southern borders.

**BANDÁ.** Banda.—The north-eastern tahsil of the Saugor District, Central Provinces, lying between 23° 53' and 24° 27' N. and 78° 40' and 79° 12' E., with an area of 704 square miles. The population in 1901 was 72,829, and in 1891, 87,193. The tahsil contains 269 inhabited villages, and the density of population is 103 persons per square mile. The headquarters of the tahsil are at Bandá, a village of 1,406 persons, distant 19 miles from Saugor by road. The land revenue demand in 1903-04 was Rs. 67,000, and that for cesses Rs. 7,000. Excluding 180 square miles of Government forest, 54 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 227 square miles. Bandá is the poorest tahsil in the District and contains a large area of hill and rock with some open plains of limited extent in the south.

**BÍNA.** Bina.—A railway junction in the Khurai tahsil of Saugor District, Central Provinces, lying in 24° 12' N. and 78° 14' E., two miles from the town of Etáwa. Population (1901) 1,826. The main line of the Indian Midland branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Itársi to Cawnpore and Agra passes Bina, and is connected here with Katnī junction on the East Indian Railway by a branch line through Saugor and Damoh. Another branch line has been constructed from Bina to Gúná and Báran. Bina is 607 miles from Bombay and 806 miles from Calcutta. A number of railway officials reside here and form a company of volunteers.

**DEORÍ.** Deorí.—A town in the Rehlí tahsil of the Saugor District, Central Provinces, situated in 23° 23' N. and 79° 2' E., 40 miles from Saugor, on the Sukchain river. Population

(1901) 4,080. Deori contains an old fort. The town was created a municipality in 1867. The average municipal receipts for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 4,200, and in 1903-04, Rs. 4,300, the chief source being a house tax. When the produce of the Sangor District was taken by road to Kareli station, Deori was a commercial town of some importance, but this is no longer the case. It contains a vernacular middle school and girls' school and a dispensary.

Deori.

Erani.—A village with a population of 171 (1901) in the Khurai tahsil, Sangor District, Central Provinces, situated in  $24^{\circ} 6' N.$  and  $78^{\circ} 11' E.$ , 6 miles from Bámora station on the Indian Midland branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, at the junction of the Bina and Renti rivers. A most interesting collection of archaeological remains is to be found on some high ground near the village. There were at one time several small Vaishnava temples, but they are now in ruins. The principal statue is a colossal *Tardha*, or figure of the boar-incarnation of Vishnu, 10 feet high and 15 feet long. A garland of small human figures is sculptured on a band round the neck, and the figure bears an inscription of the White Hun King Toramāna. From a record of Samudra Gnpta on a stone close by, it is concluded that this is one of the oldest Bráhmical statues in India, but the coins found here show that the place was inhabited before the Christian era. Another remarkable object is a great stone column, 47 feet high, which stands out before the temples and bears an inscription of Buddha Gupta, dated in 484-5 A. D. Another inscription on a pillar now turned into a *lingam*, or phallic emblem, records perhaps the earliest known *saff* immolation in India. (J. F. Fleet, *Gupta Inscriptions* (1885), pages 18, 89, 91 and 159).

ERANI.

Etawa.—A town in the Khurai tahsil of the Sangor District, Central Provinces, situated in  $24^{\circ} 12' N.$  and  $78^{\circ} 14' E.$ , two miles from Bina railway junction. Population (1901) 6,418. Etawa is not a municipality, but a town fund is raised for sanitary purposes. The opening of the branch line from Bina to Katni has greatly increased the importance of Etawa and it is a thriving place. It contains

Etawa.



ETÁWA. vernacular middle and girls' schools, as well as schools and a dispensary supported from missionary funds.

GARHÁKOTÁ. **Garhakota.**—A town in the Rehlí tahsil of the Sangor District, Central Provinces, situated in  $23^{\circ} 46' N.$  and  $79^{\circ} 9' E.$ , at a distance of 28 miles from Sangor on the Damoh road, and at the junction of the Gadherí and Sonár rivers. Population (1901) 8,508. In the fork of the Sonár and Gadherí rivers stands an old fort which must formerly have been of great strength. It was held by the rebels and stormed by Sir Hugh Rose in 1858. Two miles from the town in the forest is a high tower which formed part of the summer palace of a Bundelá king, and is said to have been constructed in order that both Sangor and Damoh might be visible from its summit. The municipality of Garhákotá has recently been abolished, but a town fund is raised for sanitary purposes. Garhákotá is now best known as the site of a large and important cattle fair which is held there annually in the month of February. It contains vernacular middle and girls' schools and a dispensary.

KHURAI  
TOWN.

**Khurai Town.**—The headquarters town of the Khurai tahsil of the Sangor District, Central Provinces, situated in  $24^{\circ} 3' N.$  and  $78^{\circ} 20' E.$ , 33 miles from Sangor on the railway line towards Bina. Population (1901) 6,012. An old fort now used as the tahsil office is situated in the town. Khurai contains a considerable colony of Jains and a number of fine Jain temples. It was erected a municipality in 1867, and the average municipal receipts for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 15,300. In 1903-04 the receipts were Rs. 8,000, being mainly derived from fees on the registration of cattle. The town is a collecting centre for local trade. A large weekly cattle market is held here, and dried meat is prepared for export to Burma. Khurai contains an English middle, two branch and two girls' schools, one of which is supported by the Swedish Lutheran Mission, and a dispensary.

SAUGOR  
TOWN.

**Sangor Town.**—The headquarters town of the Sangor District in the Central Provinces, situated in  $23^{\circ} 51' N.$  and  $78^{\circ} 45' E.$  Sangor is a station on the Bina-Katni connection of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, 65½ miles from Bombay and 760 from Calcutta. Its population (1901) is 42,330.

SAUGOR  
TOWN.

including the cantonment (10,918), and it is the third largest town in the Province. The population in 1872 was 45,655, in 1881, 44,461, and in 1891, 44,676. The garrison consists of one native cavalry and one native infantry regiment, a detachment of British infantry, and a field battery. The population in 1901 included 32,038 Hindus, 8,286 Muhammadans, 1,027 Jains, and 762 Christians, of whom 406 were Europeans and Eurasians. Saugor is supposed to be the Sagada of Ptolemy. The name is derived from *sagar* a lake, and has been given to the town after the large lake round which it is built. The town is picturesquely situated on spurs of the Vindhyan hills surrounding the lake on three sides, and reaching an elevation of about 2,000 feet. Saugor has an old fort extending over six acres, which was built by the Maráthás, and which the European residents held for several months in 1857, controlling the city while the whole surrounding country was in the hands of the rebels. A municipality was constituted in 1867. The average municipal receipts for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 77,600. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 75,000, the main head of receipt being octroi, while water supply and conservancy form the largest items of expenditure, which amounted to Rs. 73,000 in the same year. The receipts of the cantonment fund in 1903-04 were Rs. 26,000. Saugor is not a growing town and each census has shown its population as either stationary or slowly declining. It has no factories, and the industries of weaving, brass-working, oil-pressing, and the manufacture of gold and silver ornaments, which formerly contributed substantially to its wealth, are now declining. There is a printing press with-Hindi type. The high school at Saugor was established in 1828 by Captain. Paton, of the Bengal Artillery from his private funds and supported by a Maráthá gentleman Rao Krishna Rao. Lord William Bentinck on his visit to Saugor was so struck by the public spirit displayed by the latter gentleman that he invited him to Calcutta and presented him with a gold medal and an estate of the value of Rs. 1,000 a year. The school was subsequently removed to Jabulpore, but was re-established at Saugor in 1885. The town contains various branch and mission schools.

SANGOR  
TOWNS.DAMOH  
DISTRICT.  
Boundaries,  
configuration,  
and hill and  
river systems.

three dispensaries and a veterinary dispensary. A station of the Swedish Lutheran Mission has been established here.

**Damoh District.**—A District in the Jubbulpore Division of the Central Provinces, lying between  $23^{\circ} 10'$  and  $24^{\circ} 26'$  N. and  $79^{\circ} 3'$  and  $79^{\circ} 57'$  E., at their northern extremity and forming part of the Vindhyan plateau. On the west it abuts on Sangor, with which it is closely connected geographically and historically. On the south and east it is bounded by Narsinghpur and Jubbulpore; and to the north it marches with the Bundelkhand States of Panná and Chhatarpur. The total area of the District is 2,816 square miles. The rivers and streams follow the general slope of the country and flow northward, rising near the crest of the scarp over the Narbadá, and discharging their waters into the Ken, which bears them to the Jumna. The main systems are those of the Sonár and the Beárma. The Sonár, with its principal affluent the Koprá, rises in the south of the Sangor District and flows through broad valleys of open black soil country. The Beárma rises in the Vindhyan highlands south of Damoh and traverses the most rugged and broken portion of the District. During the greater part of its course it is confined between rocky cliffs, and such valleys as open out are nowhere extensive. Its principal tributaries are the Gurnijá, the Sún, and the Pathrí, with a character closely resembling its own. The Sonár and the Beárma unite just beyond the northern border of the District and pour their joint streams into the Ken. The small valley of Singrámpur, which is cut off from the open country of Jubbulpore by the Kaimur range, possesses a drainage system of its own. The stream which waters it, the Phalká, flows in a southerly instead of northerly direction, and joins the Narbadá by forcing its way through an extraordinary cleft in the hills known as the Katás. The most striking natural feature of the District is undoubtedly the sheer scarp of the Vindhyan range, which for some distance overhangs the Jubbulpore plain, but turns inward where met by the Kaimur hills, and forms the western enclosure of the landlocked valleys of Singrámpur and Jaberá. An isolated buttress commanding the Jubbulpore-Damoh road carries the old hill fortress of Singbágarh. In

the southern two-thirds of the District the prevailing features are low hills and scrub jungle, opening now and again into poor little upland valleys generally peopled by Gonds, and less frequently into deeper and broader beds of black soil cultivation, whence the Gonds have been commonly ousted by Hindu immigrants. The Sonár valley in the north of the District presents, however, a complete contrast to this description, and consists of a fertile and closely cultivated plain, while lines of blue hills on the horizon are the only indication of the different character of the country on either margin of the valley. The elevation of the plain portion of the District is about 1,200 feet above the sea.

DAMOH  
DISTRICT.

The principal rock formation is the Vindhyan sandstone of pinkish colour, lying in horizontal slabs, which commonly testify to their origin by curious ripple marks plainly formed by the lapping of water on a sandy shore. The rocks are chiefly thick masses of sandstone with alternations of shale. The calcareous element is deficient, being represented only by a single limestone band of importance. On the Jubbulpore border of the District metamorphic rock occurs, forming the distinctive range of hills already mentioned as the Kaimur, with strata upheaved into an almost vertical position.

Of the total area of the District 28 per cent. is included in Government forests, and at least 20 per cent. is scrub or tree jungle in private hands. Teak and *sáj* (*Terminalia tomentosa*) are the principal timber trees, and other species are *achár* (*Buchanania latifolia*), *tendu* or ebony (*Diospyros tomentosa*), and *pálds* (*Butea frondosa*). Considerable patches of bamboos are scattered over the hillsides. The villages are surrounded by trees or groves of mango, tamarind, *pípál*, banyan, *mahuá* (*Bassia latifolia*) and similar species of a more or less useful or quasi-sacred character.

Among wild animals, *sambar* blue bull, spotted deer, and especially hogs are numerous. Four-horned deer and monso-deer are occasionally met with. Herds of antelope are found all over the open country. Lynx and wolves may be mentioned as rare animals which have been seen. The commonest game-birds are pea-fowl and partridge. Murrel fish are numerous in the pools of the *Bárána*.

**DAMOH  
DISTRICT.**  
Climate and  
rainfall.

The climate is cold in winter and temperate in summer. Damoh town is somewhat hotter than the rest of the District in the summer months owing to the rocky hills which overhang it. The disease of guinea-worm is prevalent. The annual rainfall at Damoh is 51 inches, that of Hattā being several inches less. Until recent years the District has rarely suffered from deficiency of rainfall. Violent hailstorms are not infrequent about spring time, and the north-eastern portion of the Hattā tahsil seems peculiarly liable to them. Sharp frosts are often experienced at night, especially in the small elevated valleys of the south, and if occurring late in the season, may turn a promising wheat crop into an absolute failure.

**History.**

In the tenth century Damoh was included in the territories of the Chandel Rājput dynasty of Mahobā, which traced its descent from *Chandramā*, the god of the moon. A number of old temples are attributed to the Chandels, and Nohā is held to have been the seat of government during their supremacy. In 1383 Damoh became part of the Delhi kingdom of the Tughlak dynasty, according to a Persian inscription on a gateway in the town; but the dominion of the Muhammadans was at this time merely nominal, and the country appears to have been in reality governed by Gond chieftains who had established themselves on the ruins of the old Rājput kingdoms, shattered by the Muhammadan invasions. In 1504 the Muhammadan forces under Asaf Khān invaded Damoh, and defeated the army of Rānī Durgāvati of the Garhā-Mandlā dynasty at Singorgarh. This invasion was followed by the occupation of Damoh on behalf of the emperor Akbar. The rule of the Mughals lasted for about ninety years, when the bulk of the imperial troops had to be withdrawn to oppose the rising power of the Marāthās, and Chhatarsāl, the young Bundelā Rājā of the neighbouring Pannā State, soon afterwards took advantage of the opportunity to eject the remnants of the Muhammadan garrisons, and to add Saugor and Damoh to his already extensive territory of Pannā. The Bundelā supremacy lasted only for a period of about sixty years and did not extend to the south of the District, where the

small Lodhí and Gond chieftains continued to hold their estates in practical independence. In 1729 Chhatarsál was compelled to solicit the aid of the Peshwá to repel a threatened invasion of his kingdom. In return for the assistance rendered him, he left to the Peshwá by will a third of his territories, including Sangor. The Maráthás under Govind Rao Pandit, governor of Sangor, gradually extended their influence over Damoh, which was administered by them in subordination to Sangor, until, with the deposition of the Peshwá and the annexation of the Poona dominions under Lord Hastings, Sangor and Damoh passed under British rule in 1818.

During the Mutiny the District was in a very disturbed condition for a period of about six months, nearly every Lodhí landholder throwing off his allegiance except the petty Rájá of Hatrí. The town of Damoh was for some time held by a detachment of the 42nd regiment of native infantry, which remained faithful in spite of the fact that there were no British officers in the station. The town was subsequently reoccupied but again abandoned, and garrisoned only by the friendly troops of the Rájá of Panná. During this period, in October 1857, a band of the mutinous native infantry regiment from Sangor plundered the town and burnt the public buildings and all the Government records. After the departure of the mutineers the town was again occupied by the Panná troops, and held until it was ~~reoccupied~~ by the civil officers in March 1858.

The archæological remains consist principally of ruined Archæology. forts erected by the Rájputs, Gonds, Muhammadans and Maráthás, who have at different periods held sway over portions of the District. The principal one is that of Singorgarh, which is believed to have been built by the Paramára Rájputs in the beginning of the 14th century, and was afterwards held and enlarged by the Gond Garbhá-Mandlá princes. Narsinghgarh on the Sonár river, twelve miles from Damoh, was the capital of the District during the period of Muhammadan ascendancy. It contains a fort and a mosque constructed by the Muhammadan Díván Sháh Taiyab, and a second fort built by the Maráthás, which was partially destroyed in 1857. At Kundalpur, 20 miles from Damoh,

DAMOH  
DISTRICT.

are situated a collection of fifty or more Jain temples, covering the hill, and gleaming white in the distance. Bāndakpur, 10 miles east of Damoh, is the site of a famous temple of Mahādeo, to which pilgrims come even from as far as Lahore. At Nohā, 18 miles from Damoh, there are numerous remains of temples both Hindu and Jain, but they have been almost entirely destroyed, and the stone used for building; pillars, lintels, sculptures and other fragments are found throughout the village in the walls of houses and enclosures.

## The people.

The figures of population at the last three enumerations were: 1881, 312,057; 1891, 325,613; 1901, 283,326. The increase in population between 1881 and 1891 was considerably less than that for the Province as a whole, owing to bad seasons in the latter part of the decade. Between 1891 and 1901 the District suffered from a succession of disastrous failures of the spring crops, and distress or famine was prevalent in several years. The District contains one town DAMOH, and 1,116 inhabited villages. The principal statistics of population in 1901 are shown below, having been adjusted for a small transfer of area in 1902:—

Tahsil.	Area in square miles.	Number of		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Damoh ...	1,707	1	623	183,316	102	— 6·8	7,103
Ilotta ...	1,010	...	421	102,010	100	— 21·3	3,030
District Total ...	2,810	1	1,116	285,326	101	— 12·4	11,033

The open country in the centre is most closely populated, rising to over 200 persons per square mile in the Damoh and Pathariā police circles. About 85 per cent. of the population are Hindus, 9½ per cent. Animists, 3 per cent. Muhammadans, and 2½ per cent. Jains. Practically the entire population speaks the Bundel dialect of Western Hindī, the Gonds having entirely abandoned their own language.

Their castes  
and occupa-  
tions.

The principal castes are Lodhīs, who number 13 per cent. of the population, Kurmīs 8 per cent., Chamārs 12 per cent., and Gonds 9½ per cent. The most influential proprietors

in the District are Lodhis, and as a class they were openly disaffected in the Mutiny. They are fine, stalwart men, devoted to sport and with a certain amount of military swagger. The Kurmis are the best agricultural caste in the District. Labourers are principally Chamars in the open country and Gonds in the hills. They are miserably poor and live in great squalor. At the spring harvest they come down in large numbers from the hills to the open country of Damoh and Jabulpore, and obtain full employment for a month or two in cutting the wheat crop. On their earnings during the harvest season they subsist during the hot weather. About 67 per cent. of the population of the District were returned as supported by agriculture in 1901.

DAMOH  
DISTRICT.

Christians number 90, of whom 59 are natives. An American mission of the unsectarian body known as the Disciples of Christ has been established in Damoh town.

In soils and character of cultivation the open valley of the Sonâr, known as the Haveli, differs considerably from the rest of the District. The lands are here almost uniformly composed of black soil from trap or volcanic rock, of the light and friable kind known locally as *mund*. The depth is generally considerable, and degrees of productiveness vary according to the lie of the surface, sloping land, owing to denudation of the finer particles of soil, being less valuable than that in a level position whether high or low-lying. This soil occupies more than 47 per cent. of the cultivated area, the best black soil or *lisbar* covering 10½ per cent. These two soils will as a rule produce wheat. Poor brown soil called *patarud* or thin, on which inferior spring or autumn crops are grown, accounts for 29 per cent. of all the land in cultivation. Nearly one-third of the land occupied for cultivation is under old and new fallows, this large proportion being partly caused by the necessity for resting fallows in the poorer soils, and partly by the spread of *Lana* grass (*Saccharum spontaneum*) in land which is not continually cropped.

Nearly 4 square miles taken from Government forest have been settled on the ryotwari tenure and pay a revenue of Rs. 4,000. The balance of the village area is held on the



DAMOH  
DISTRICT.

ordinary tenures. The principal statistics of cultivation in 1903-04 are shown below, areas being in square miles :—

Tahsil.	Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated.	Culturable waste.	Forests.
Damoh ..	1,797	527	1½	469	543
Hatta ...	1,019	335	1	329	240
Total ...	2,816	862	2½	798	792

Wheat, either alone or mixed with gram, now covers 278 square miles or 29½ per cent. of the cropped area, as compared with 46 per cent. at settlement; gram occupies 70 square miles, linseed 46, rice 80, and the millet *kodon* 105. A noticeable change in cultivation in recent years is the extension of the practice of sowing wheat mixed with gram, the area under wheat alone being now comparatively insignificant. Linseed is also mixed with gram. The total area under wheat and its mixtures is at present far below the normal, and the substitution of less valuable autumn crops is an unmistakable, though perhaps temporary, sign of deterioration. *Jowár* covers nearly 15 per cent. of the cropped area and *til* over 11 per cent. There are a number of betel-vine gardens at Damoh and Hindoria, and the leaves are sometimes exported to northern India. *Singhára* or water-nut is largely cultivated by Dhismars in the principal tanks and is also exported.

Improvements  
in agricultural  
practice.

The occupied area increased by 16 per cent. between the settlements of 1864 and 1894, but the newly broken-up land is of inferior quality, and no great extension of cultivation seems possible in the future. Advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act were inconsiderable until the scarcity of 1894, but between that year and 1904 6·91 lakhs have been advanced. During the same period Rs. 75,000 have been taken under the Land Improvement Act, principally for the embankment of fields.

Cattle, ponies,  
and sheep.

Cattle are bred generally in the District and are also imported from the valley of the Ken river in Panná State and from Gwalior. The local cattle are small in size, and

DAMOH  
DISTRICT.

no care is usually oxoreised in breeding, which is carried on from immature bullocks. Buffaloes are also bred to a considerable extent, the females being kept for the manufacture of *ghí* from their milk, and the young males sold into Chhattisgarh. They are sometimes used for draught but not for cultivation. Small ponies are bred, and used for riding and pack-carriage. Those of a superior class were formerly also sold in Jubbulpore as tonga-ponies and for riding purposes, but pony breeding has greatly decreased since the famines. Sheep and goats are bred in considerable numbers; country blankets are woven from sheep's wool, and the milk of goats is sold to confectioners, and *ghí* is also made from it. Goats are, however, kept principally to be sold for food.

The area irrigated varies from 2,000 to 4,000 acres, irrigation of which a maximum of 1,400 acres is under rice. The balance of the irrigated area consists principally of market-gardens cultivated by men of the Káchhi caste. The rice land is considered to afford some scope for the extension of irrigation. The District contains about 300 tanks, but these were principally constructed in the time of the Maráthás for drinking purposes and are only used to a small extent for irrigation. It has also about 1,000 wells. Wheat fields are rarely embanked to retain water in the open country of the centre of the District, but the practice is more common in the smaller valleys wedged in among the hill ranges to the south. Small embankments to cut off the surface drainage from a sloping field are made more frequently.

The Government forests occupy an area of 792 square Forest miles, and are situated mainly in the north and south of the District, with some scattered blocks in the centre. They are not as a rule valuable. Teak and *śí* (*Terminalia tomentosa*) are found either scattered or in groups of limited extent, and straight stems of more than 3 feet in girth do not occur in any considerable numbers. The dye furnished by the lac insect is the most important minor product and its cultivation is steadily increasing. It is produced for export to northern India. The forest income for 1903-04 was Rs. 60,000, of which half was realised from grazing and fodder grass.

**DAMOH  
DISTRICT.  
Minerals.**

Iron ore has been found in small quantities in the north of the District near the Panná border, but no other mineral deposits are known to exist. Good building sandstone is found in a few localities.

**Arts and  
Manufactures.**

Country cloth is still woven by hand by Koris and Koshtás, but since the opening of the railway the weavers have ceased to prosper. The chief centres are Báusa Kalán, Damoh, Hindoriá, Sitáunagar and Hattá. Women's cloths are principally woven, men preferring the imported cloth. Mill-spun thread is now solely used. Dyeing is carried on at Damoh, Báusa, Tarkhedá, and Aslána, and indigo dyeing in Hindoriá. Indigenous dyes are still used, but are rapidly being ousted by foreign dyes. Household vessels are made in Damoh and Hindoriá, the material principally used being bell-metal, which is a mixture of four parts of copper to one of tin. The pottery of Damoh has some local reputation, the clay taking a particularly smooth polish; native pipe bowls are exported to Jubbulpore. A light silver colour is obtained by the use of mica. There is an iron industry in Jaberá; ordinary agricultural implements, knives and ornamental areca-nut cutters are made and sent to other Districts. In Panohamnagar native paper is manufactured, but the industry has greatly declined and only two families are now engaged in it. The paper is used by money-lenders for their account books. A cattle-slaughtering industry has recently been started in Damoh and a number of butchers have settled there. Old and infirm cattle are bought up and killed, and the dried meat, hides, horns, and hoofs are exported.

**Commerce.**

Wheat and oilseeds are the principal articles of export. In recent years the trade in the former has declined and that in the latter has increased in importance. Teak-timber for building and bamboos are sent to northern India, and there is a considerable trade in lac, but not much in other minor forest products. Ghee is sent to Calcutta, but not in large quantities, and it is also received for export from Bundelkhand. The principal imports are cotton piece-goods, koroseno oil, salt, and sugar. The salt most commonly used is sea salt from Bombay. The bulk of the cotton piece-goods

also come from Bombay, but the finer kinds are obtained from Calcutta. Imports of kerosene oil are all from Bombay. *Gur* or unrefined sugar comes from northern India, and sugar both from Mirzāpur and the Mauritius. Country tobacco is imported from Bengal. Iron implements are obtained from Chhatarpur State, and English iron is largely imported from Bombay. Copper vessels are imported from Cawnpore, and foreign glass bangles from Bombay. The most important weekly markets are those of Nohā, Damoh, Pathariā, and Hindoriā. Large annual fairs are held at Bāndakpur and Kundalpur, at which temporary shops are located for the sale of ordinary merchandise but not for cattle.

DAMOH  
DISTRICT.

The Bina-Katni connection of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway passes through the centre of the District, with a length of 26 miles and six stations within its limits. Nearly the whole trade converges to Damoh station, with the exception of a little from the western corner, which goes to Pathariā station, and of some exports of timber from Ghatari and Sāgoni. The principal trade routes north of the railway are from Damoh to Hattā and on to Gaisābād, and from Damoh to Narsingharh and Patiāgarh. A considerable quantity of the produce of the adjoining Bundelkhand States comes through Gaisābād to Hattā and Damoh, and from Pannā through Narsingharh. South of the railway trade converges to Damoh from Jujhār, along the road to Jubbulpore through Nohā and Jāberā, from Tendūkhedā and Tejgarh on to the road at Abhāna, and from Tārādehī in the extreme south through Rāmgarh and Bhūri. The two northern routes are the most important ones. The chief metalled roads are those from Damoh to Hattā for 23 miles and from Damoh to the Jubbulpore border for 37 miles. The old military road to Saugor is now only gravelled. The total length of metalled roads is 70 miles and of unmetalled roads 96 miles, and the maintenance charges amounted to Rs. 29,000 in 1903-04. The Public Works department maintains 99 miles of road and the District Council the remainder. The length of avenues is 58 miles. Carriage in the north of the District is principally

Railways and  
Roads.

**DAMOH DISTRICT.**

by carts, and in the south by bullocks, buffaloes, and ponies.

**Famine.**

Damoh suffered from moderate or severe failures of crops in 1854-56 and 1883-89. In 1894, on the loss of the spring crop from rust, some relief was granted from April to November, and this continued to a small extent in 1895. From 1892 to 1897 the District only once enjoyed a harvest equal to half an average, and this succession of disasters left it in poor case to bear the famine of 1896-97, when only a quarter of a normal crop was obtained. The numbers relieved in this year reached 60,000 or 18 per cent. of the population at the end of May, and the total expenditure was 10 lakhs. In 1899-1900 the District escaped somewhat lightly as compared with others, and had 43 per cent. of a normal crop. Some relief had already been given on a small scale from April to October 1899, on account of the poor harvest of the previous year. Very little more was necessary before April 1900, and the operations closed in October. In August 43,000 persons or 13 per cent. of the population were in receipt of assistance, and the total expenditure was 3½ lakhs.

**District subdivisions and staff.**

The Deputy Commissioner has one Assistant. For administrative purposes the District is divided into two tahsils, for each of which there are a tahsildār and a naib-tahsildār. The District usually has a Forest Officer of the Provincial Service, and public works are in charge of the Executive Engineer stationed at Saugor.

**Civil and Criminal justice.**

The civil staff consists of one District and one Subordinate Judge and two Munsiffs. The Divisional and Sessions Judge of Jubbulpore has jurisdiction in Damoh.

**Land Revenue administration.**

Under the Marāthā revenue system villages were farmed out to the highest bidder and any rights of consideration which the village headmen may have enjoyed in the past were almost entirely effaced. The cultivators were only protected by custom, which enjoined that so long as the annual rent demanded was paid, their tenure should be hereditary and continuous. The early revenue history of the District under our administration consists mainly of a succession of abortive attempts to realise an amount

equal to or exceeding that exacted during the last and worst period of Maráthá rule. The earliest British settlements were made with the village headmen for triennial periods. The first entailed a demand of  $8\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs, which could not be paid, and successive reductions became necessary until 1835, when a twenty years settlement was made for 3.05 lakhs. The assessments proved, however, far too high for a District broken down by a long period of excessive taxation. It is recorded that landed property entirely lost its value, the landholders throwing up their leases and leaving large numbers of villages to be managed direct or farmed to money-lenders. The making of a fresh settlement was delayed for nine years by the Mutiny, and a thirty years settlement was concluded in 1863-64. The revised demand was fixed at 2.78 lakhs, the District having by then recovered in paying capacity to a certain extent, owing to the marked rise in agricultural prices which occurred at this period. On this occasion the village headmen received proprietary and transferable rights in their villages. During the thirty years settlement all circumstances combined to increase the prosperity of the agricultural classes. Concurrently with an extremely light revenue demand, there was a rise in prices amounting to 50 per cent. and an increase in the area under crop of 27 per cent. At the expiration of this period a new settlement was effected for a period of 12 years, from 1893-94, a shorter term than the usual period of twenty years having been fixed in order to bring Districts under settlement in regular rotation. Under it the revenue demand was increased to 4.43 lakhs, or by 68 per cent., giving an incidence of 11 annas 7 pies per cultivated acre; and varying from R. 1-0-8 in Batiágarh to 3 annas 9 pies in Kumbári. The rental incidence for the District was R. 1-1-10, the maximum and minimum rates being R. 1-11-8 and R. 0-5-10 in the same circles. The new demand would have been easily payable but for the succession of failures of crops and consequent agricultural deterioration which have characterised the history of Damoni since its introduction. The demand has in consequence been proportionately reduced in those villages which have suffered

**DAMOH  
District.**

most severely, and now (1903-04) stands at 3 54 lakhs. The following are the principal statistics of revenue in thousands of rupees :—

		1880-81.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-04
Land revenue	...	2,66	2,69	3,60	3,55
Total revenue	...	3,02	4,44	4,88	5,24

**Local Boards  
and Muni-  
cipalities.**

The management of local affairs outside the municipal town of DAMOH is entrusted to a District council and two local boards, each having jurisdiction over one tahsil. The income of the District council for 1903-04 was Rs. 47,000. The expenditure was mainly on civil works (Rs. 14,000) and education (Rs. 15,000).

**Police and  
Jails.**

The police force consists of 322 officers and men under a District Superintendent. There are also 728 village watchmen for 1,116 inhabited villages. Damoh contains a District jail, having accommodation for 134 prisoners, including 14 females. The average daily number of prisoners during the year 1904 was 59.

**Education.**

The District stands 8th of those in the Central Provinces as regards the literacy of its population, 7.5 per cent. of males being able to read and write : 373 women only were returned as literate in 1901. Statistics of the number of pupils under instruction are as follows :—1880-81, 2,420 ; 1890-91, 3,200 ; 1900-01, 3,163 ; 1903-04, 4,384 including 234 girls. The educational institutions comprise 2 English middle schools, 68 primary schools and 2 private schools in receipt of fixed grants. The expenditure on education in 1903-04 was Rs. 23,000, of which Rs. 11,500 and Rs. 7,600 were provided from Provincial and local funds respectively, and Rs. 1,500 from fees.

**Hospitals  
and dispen-  
saries.**

The District has 8 dispensaries, with accommodation for 62 in-patients. During 1904, 59,845 cases, of which 400 were those of in-patients, were treated in these institutions, and 1,311 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 6,200, of which the greater part was provided from Provincial and local funds.

Vaccination is compulsory only in the municipal town of Damoh. The proportion of successful vaccinations in 1903-04 was 36 per 1,000 of the population of the District.

DAMOH  
DISTRICT.  
Vaccination.

(J. B. Fuller, *Settlement Report*, 1893; a District Gazetteer is under preparation.)

**Damoh Tahsil.**—The southern tahsil of the Damoh District, Central Provinces, lying between 23° 10' and 24° 4' N. and 79° 3' and 79° 57' E., with an area of 1,797 square miles. The population in 1901 was 183,316 persons, and in 1891 was 195,937. The tahsil has one town DAMOH, population 13,355, and 692 inhabited villages. The density of population per square mile is 102 persons. Excluding 543 square miles of Government forest, 53 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 527 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 2,16,000 and that for cesses Rs. 22,000. The north-western portion of the tahsil takes in part of the open plain bordering the Sonár river, but the greater part of it consists of an alternation of low hills and narrow landlocked valleys.

DAMOH  
TAHSIL.

**Hatta.**—The north-eastern tahsil of the Damoh District, Central Provinces, lying between 23° 45' and 24° 26' N. and 79° 8' and 79° 52' E., with an area of 1,019 square miles. The population in 1901 was 102,010 persons, and in 1891 was 129,676. The density of population is 100 persons per square mile, and the tahsil contains 424 inhabited villages. The headquarters of the tahsil, Hatta, is a village of 4,365 persons, distant 24 miles from Damoh by road. Excluding 249 square miles of Government forest, 57 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 335 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 1,33,000, and that for cesses Rs. 13,000. The bulk of the tahsil consists of an open black soil plain in the valley of the Sonár river, with a belt of hill and forest country forming the scarp of the Vindhyan range to the north.

HATTA.

**Damoh Town.**—The headquarters town of the tahsil and District of the same name in the Central Provinces, situated in 23° 50' N. and 79° 27' E., on the Bina-Katni branch of the Indian Midland Railway, 702 miles from Bombay. The

DAMOH  
TOWN.



DAMOH  
TOWN.

name is supposed to be derived from Damayantí, the wife of Rájá Nál of Narwar. Population (1901) 13,355. Damoh is the fifteenth town in the Province in size and is increasing in importance. It was made a municipality in 1867, and the average municipal receipts for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 14,000. In 1903-04 the receipts were Rs. 22,000 and were derived from a variety of sources, including house tax, market dues and cattle registration fees. Damoh is the collecting and distributing centre for the District trade, and possesses the only weekly cattle market held in this District. An extensive cattle-slaughtering industry has lately grown up, and various handicrafts, such as the manufacture of vessels from bell-metal, pottery, weaving, and dyeing are carried on. A number of betel-vine gardens are situated in the environs, and waternuts are grown in the tanks and exported. Damoh is situated below some stony hills which radiate heat in the hot weather and increase the temperature. A difficulty is experienced in obtaining good water, as the soil is very porous and there are but few wells. The town contains an English middle school, an Urdú school, some branch schools, and four dispensaries. A station of the American Mission known as the Disciples of Christ is worked by a number of European missionaries; among the institutions supported by the Mission are a women's hospital and dispensary, an orphanage, a dairy farm, an industrial school and other schools.

JUBBULPORE  
DISTRICT.  
Boundaries,  
configuration,  
and hill and  
river systems.

Jubbulpore District.—A District in the Jubbulpore Division of the Central Provinces, lying between 22° 49' and 24° 8' N. and 79° 21' and 86° 58' E., at the head of what may be called the Narbadá valley proper. On the north and east it is bounded by the Malhar, Panuá and Rewah States; on the west by the Damoh District; and on the south by Narsinghpur, Seoni and Mandlā. The Narbadá, entering the District from the Mandlā highlands on the south-east, winds circuitously through its southern portion, passing within six miles of the town of Jubbulpore, and finally leaves it on the south-western border. To the north of the Narbadá extends an open plain bounded on the north-west by offshoots of the Vindhyan, and on the south-west by those of the Sātpurá range of hills. Further to the north-west the surface

becomes more uneven, small tracts of level alternating with broken and hilly country. The total area of the District is 3,912 square miles. The south-western plain, called the Haveli, is one of the richest and most fertile areas in the Province. It consists of a mass of embanked wheat fields, and occupies the valley of the Hiran and Narbadá rivers, extending from the south-western border of the District as far north as the town of Sihorá, and from the Hiran river flowing close beneath the Vindhyan hills to the railway line, including also a tract round Sarolí beyond the line. On the western bank of the Hiran the Bhámrer range of the Vindhyan system forms the boundary between Jubbulpore and Damoh. To the south-east of the Haveli lies a large tract of poor and hilly country forming the northern foot-hills of the Sâtpurá range. North of the Haveli the Vindhyan and the Sâtpurá systems approach each other more closely, until they finally almost meet in the Murwára tahsil. The Kaimur ridge of the Vindhyan commencing at Katangi runs through the west of the Sihorá tahsil, and approaches Murwára, leaving to the north-west a stretch of hill country with one or two small plateaux. On the east the Sâtpurás run down to the railway between Sihorá and Sleemansbád, and from them a ridge extends northwards till it meets the Vindhyan system at Bijerághogarh in the extreme north of the District. Between these ranges lie stretches of comparatively open country, less fertile than the Haveli. Lying at the junction of the Vindhyan and Sâtpurá ranges, Jubbulpore forms part of the great central watershed of India. The southern part of the District is drained by the Narbadá and its tributaries, the Hiran and the Gaur. In the north the Mahánadí, after forming for some distance the boundary between Jubbulpore and Rewah, crosses the Murwára tahsil and passes on to join the Son, a tributary of the Ganges. The Katni river flowing by Katni-Murwára is an affluent of the Mahánadí. The Ken river rises in the Kaimur range on the west, but only flows for a short distance within the District.

The valley of the Narbadá from Jubbulpore to the Geology. western boundary is an alluvial flat chiefly composed of

**JUBBULPORE DISTRICT.** a stiff red or brown clay with numerous intercalated bands of sand and gravel. Kankar abounds throughout the deposit and pisolitic iron granules are of frequent occurrence. The southern and eastern portions of the District are generally covered by the Deccan trap. In the north is a continuous exposure of sub-metamorphic strata, consisting of fine earthy slate, quartzite, lime-stone, ribboned jasper passing locally into bluish quartzite, micaceous hematite and other rocks. In these rocks or in association with them the manganese, lead, and copper ores, and the richest iron ores of the District occur. The rocks round Jubbulpore are gneiss.

**Potany.** The plain country is well wooded with mango, tamarind, *ber* (*Zizyphus jujuba*), guava, *mahnú* (*Bassia latifolia*) and other fruit-bearing trees. Among the ornamental or quasi-religious trees are the *kanyan*, *pápal*, and *lachnú* (*Bauhinia variegata*). The hills are covered with forest which formerly suffered great loss from the annual clearing of patches by the hill tribes and by grass fires. The principal timber trees are teak, *sáj* (*Terminalia tomentosa*), *haldú* (*Adina cordifolia*), *tendú* or ebony (*Diospyros tomentosa*) and bamboos. Peaches and pine-apples and excellent potatoes and other vegetables are also grown.

**Tauna.** The usual wild animals and birds are found in Jubbulpore, and there is a considerable variety of game. Tiger and panther are the common carnivora, and the deer and antelope include *sámbar*, spotted deer, black buck and the *chinkára* or Indian gazelle.

**Rainfall and climate.** The annual rainfall is 59 inches, and is usually copious, that of Murwára in the north being somewhat lighter and also apparently more variable. The climate is pleasant and salubrious. The average maximum temperature in May does not exceed 100°, and in the cold weather light frosts are not infrequent.

**History.** The village of Tewar, lying a few miles from Jubbulpore, is the site of the old city of Tripura, or Karanbel, the capital of the Kalachuri Rájput dynasty. The information available about the Kalachuri or Chedi dynasty has been pieced together from a number of inscriptions found in the

Jubbulpore District, in Chhattisgarh and in Benares.<sup>1</sup> They JUBBULPORE  
DISTRICT. belonged to the Haihaya Rājputs, and were a branch of the Ratanpur family who governed Chhattisgarh. Their rise into power possibly dates from shortly after the commencement of the Christian era, and they had an era of their own called the Chasī Samvat, which commenced in A. D. 249. For the first five or six centuries of their rule there remain only a few isolated facts; but for a period of three hundred years from the ninth to the twelfth centuries a complete genealogy has been drawn up. We have the names of eighteen kings, and occasional mention of their marriages or wars with the surrounding principalities, the Rāthors of Kanauj, the Chandels of Mahobā, and the Paramāras of Mālwa. Their territory comprised the upper valley of the Narbadā. From the twelfth century nothing more is known of them, and the dynasty probably came to an end, eclipsed by the rising power of Rewah or Baghelkhand. At a subsequent period, probably about the fifteenth century, Jubbulpore was included in the territories of the Gond Garhā-Mandlā dynasty, and Garhā was for some time their capital. On the subversion of the Gonds by the Marāthās in 1781 Jubbulpore became part of the Saugor territories of the Peshwā. It was transferred to the Bhonsla kingdom in 1798 and became British territory in 1818.

In 1857 Jubbulpore was garrisoned by the 52nd native infantry and was the head-quarters of Major Erskine, the Commissioner of the Saugor and Nerbudda territories, then attached to the North-Western Provinces. In June 1857 the demeanour of the native troops became suspicious, and the Europeans in the station were collected in the Residency, which was made defensible. The sepoys however remained quiet, and in August a movable column of Madras troops arrived from Kamptee and were sent forward to restore order in the interior of the Jubbulpore and Damoh Districts, which were in a very disturbed condition and were being raided by mutineers from Saugor. On the 18th September the deposed Gond Rājā of Garhā-Mandlā and his son, who had been detected in a conspiracy against the British, were blown away

<sup>1</sup> Records of the Archaeological Survey, Vol. IX, page 78 *seq.*

**Jubbulpore District.** from guns, and on that night the whole of the 52nd regiment quietly rose and left the station. The Madras troops who were then at Damoh were recalled, and on arriving at Katangi found the rebels on the further bank of the Hiran river. The passage was forced and the enemy put to flight, and no serious disturbance occurred subsequently. The northern *pargana* of Bijorághogarh was formerly a Native State. The chief was deposed for participation in the Mutiny and his territory was incorporated in the Jubbulpore District in 1865.

**Archæology.** The relics of the different races and religions which at one time or another have been dominant in Jubbulpore are fairly numerous, but are now for the most part in ruins. Remains of numerous old Hindu temples and fragments of carved stone are found in a group of villages on the banks of the Ken river, north-west of Murwára. These are Ríthi, Chhotí-Deori, Simrá, Purení and Nándchánál. Those at Bargaon belong to the Jains. Bilehri, a little to the south, was once a place of some note, but the only remains now existing are a great tank called Lachhman Sagar, a smaller tank and two temples. In the centre of the District the villages of Bahuriband, Rúpnáth and Tigwán contain another group of remains. Bahuriband (many embankments) is believed once to have been the site of a large city, and was conjecturally identified by Cunningham with the Tholobana of Ptolemy. The only piece of antiquity now remaining is a large naked Jain statue containing an inscription of the Kalachuri dynasty of Tewar. A small hill at Tigwán, two miles from Bahuriband, is covered with blocks of out stone, the ruins of many temples which have been destroyed by the railway contractors. At Rúpnáth there is a famous *lingam* of Siva, which is placed in a cleft of the rock, where a stream pours over the Kaimur range, but the place is more interesting as being the site of one of the rock-inscriptions of Asoka. Separate mention is made of Garhá, now included in the town of Jubbulpore.

**The people.** The population of the District at the last three enumerations was as follows: 1881, 687,233; 1891, 748,146; 1901, 680,585. The gain in population of 9 per cent. between 1881 and 1891 was smaller than that for the Province as a whole. During the last decade the loss of population has

been 9 per cent., being least in the Murwara tahsil. The District contains three towns, JUBBULPORE, SINORA, and MURWARA, and 2,298 inhabited villages. The principal statistics of population in 1901 are shown below :—

Tahsil.	Area in square miles.	Number of		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Jubbulpore ...	1,610	1	1,070	325,438	210	— 8.1	21,007
Sinora ...	1,107	1	700	183,421	160	— 12.5	7,074
Murwara ...	1,100	1	610	101,073	135	— 7.2	5,745
District Total ..	3,817	3	2,380	609,932	171	— 9.0	33,810

The figures of religion show that 87½ per cent. of the people are Hindus, 5½ per cent. Animists, and 5½ per cent. Muhammadans, while there are 6,177 Jains. Nearly the whole population is returned as speaking the Bagheli dialect of Eastern Hindi; this form of the language closely resembles the dialects of Oudh and Chhattisgarh, and is found elsewhere in the Central Provinces only in Mandla. Only about 5,000 persons are returned as speaking Gondí.

The principal landholding castes are Brahmans (64,000), Baniás (17,000), Gonds (79,000), Kurmís (35,000), Rajputs (17,000), and Lodhís (41,000). The Brahmans hold no very important estates, but numerous small ones, not infrequently assigned to them partly or wholly revenue free from the time of the Gond rulers. Brahmans form 9 per cent. of the whole population, a fact which is partly to be attributed to the number of sacred places on the Narbadá. Kurmís and Lodhís are the principal cultivating castes; the Lodhís have several fine estates, frequently held on quit-rent tenure and locally called *jágírs*. The Gonds number nearly 79,000 or 11½ per cent. of the population. The Bhariá Bhumiás (22,000) are another primitive tribe. The Bhumiá is the village priest, charged with the worship of the local deities, and generally receiving a free grant of land from the proprietor. The Bhariás, on the other hand, have strong thieving propensities, and are sometimes spoken of as a criminal tribe. The identity of the two is uncertain. The Kols, who number about 40,000 or nearly 7 per cent. of the population, live more

**JUBBULPORE DISTRICT.** in the open country than the Gond, and are employed as farm-servants or on earthwork. Agriculture supports about 62 per cent. of the population.

**Christian Missions.** Christians number 3,038, of whom 2,041 are Europeans and Eurasians. The Church Missionary Society and the Zamāna mission of the Church of England, and others belonging to the Wesleyan, Methodist Episcopal, and Roman Catholic Churches are working in the District; all of these have their headquarters in Jubbulpore.

**General agricultural conditions.**

The best soil of the District is the black alluvial clay (*kābar*) or loam (*muud*) of the upper Narbadā valley. The former occupies nearly 12 and the latter 26 per cent. of the cultivated area. Sandy rice land formed from crystalline rock covers about 10 per cent., and mixed black and sandy soil, which sometimes grows wheat, nearly 12 per cent. Most of the remaining land is either very shallow blackish soil, or the red and stony land of the hills. About 25 per cent. of the occupied area is generally uncultivated, long resting fallows being required for the shallow stony soil on which light rice and the minor millets are grown. The distinctive feature of agriculture in Jubbulpore is the practice of growing wheat in large embanked fields, in which water is held up during the monsoon season, and run off a fortnight or so before the grain is sown. The advantages of this system are that there is little or no growth of weeds, most of the labour of preparing the land for sowing is saved, and the cultivator is independent of the variable autumn rain, as the fields do not dry up.

**Chief agricultural statistics and crops.**

With the exception of 1,094 acres settled on the ryotwari system all land is held on the ordinary tenures. The following table gives the principal statistics of cultivation in 1903-04, areas being in square miles:—

Tahsil.	Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated.	Culturable waste.	Forests.
Jubbulpore	1,610	709	2	412	113
Sihora	1,107	563	2	814	96
Murāra	1,108	807	1	851	187
Total	3,825	1,079	5	1,110	396

What waste land remains is situated mainly in the poor and hilly tracts, and does not offer much scope for further increase of cultivation. In the open portion or *Haveli*, every available acre of land has been taken up, and there are no proper grazing or even standing grounds for cattle. The gross cropped area is about 1,795 square miles, of which 156 square miles are double-cropped. Wheat occupies 628 square miles or 32 per cent. of the cropped area, rice 198 square miles, *kodon* and *kutki* 310 square miles, gram 184 square miles, and the oilseed *tal* 154 square miles. As in other Districts, there has been considerable deterioration in cropping, wheat, which twelve years ago overshadowed all other crops in importance, being supplanted by millets and oilseeds of inferior value. The area sown singly with wheat is only about a third of what it was, while the practice of mixing it with gram has greatly increased in favour. But little cotton is grown in Jubbulpore and that of a very coarse variety. Betel-vine gardens exist in a number of places, among the principal being Jubbulpore itself and Bilehri. Fruits and vegetables are also grown to supply the local demand.

Cultivation expanded very largely up to 1892, but the famines produced a serious decline, and complete recovery had not been attained in 1903-04. The area sown with two crops has largely increased since 1864. Flax or *san-homp* is a profitable minor crop which has lately come into favour. In the eleven years ending 1904, Rs. 22,000 were borrowed under the Land Improvement Act, mainly for the embankment of fields, and 4.65 lakhs under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, a third of which sum was distributed in the famine of 1897.

The cattle bred in the District are of no special quality. Many animals of the Gwalior and Saugor breeds are imported from outside, being purchased by the local agriculturists at Garhakotā fair. The price of cattle is said to have increased largely since the famines of 1897 and 1900, owing to the numbers which have been killed for the export of hides and flesh. The returns show that about 18,000 are slaughtered annually, while in 1896-97 the numbers rose to 41,000 out of a total of 490,000 shown in the District returns.

JUBBULPORE  
DISTRICT.Improvements  
in agricultural  
practice.Cattle, ponies  
and sheep.



JUBBULPORE  
DISTRICT.

Grazing is very scarce in the open embanked wheat lands of the Haveli, and most of the cattle are sent to the forests for grazing in the rains when the fields do not require ploughing. Buffaloes are bred and the females are kept for the manufacture of *ghee* while the young males are either allowed to die from neglect or sold in Chhattisgarh. Good female buffaloes are expensive, their price being calculated at Rs. 12 or Rs. 13 for each *seer* of milk that they give. Ponies are bred to a small extent, and were also formerly imported from Saugor, but very few are purchased there now. Those who can afford it keep a pony for riding, as carts cannot travel over large portions of the District. Ponies, bullocks, and buffaloes are also largely used for pack-carriage. Goats and sheep are kept for food and for the manufacture of *ghee*.

## Irrigation.

The maximum area irrigated is about 6,000 acres, of which 2,500 are under rice, and the remainder devoted to garden crops, sugarcane, and a little wheat and barley. There are about 2,500 wells and 13½ tanks. The embanked wheat fields, which cover about 310 square miles, are, however, practically irrigated, and the crops grown in them are very seldom affected by deficiency of rainfall.

## Forests.

The total area of Government forest is 346 square miles or 9 per cent. of that of the District. The forests are scattered in small patches all over the hilly tract east of the railway along the length of the District, while to the west lies one important block in the Murwara tahsil, and a few smaller ones. The *sál* tree (*Shorea robusta*) occupies a portion of the Murwara tahsil forests. The remainder are of the type familiar on the dry hills of Central India, low scrub jungle, usually open and composed of a large variety of species, few of which, however, yield timber or attain large dimensions. Teak is found in places mixed with other species. Among the more important of minor products may be mentioned the *mahud* flower, myrabolams, and honey. The forest revenue for 1903-04 was Rs. 42,000.

## Minerals.

Iron ores, some of which are very rich, occur in several parts of the District, particularly in the Sihora tahsil. The iron is smelted in small furnaces by Agarins and sold at Rs. 2-8 a maund. Owing to the imperfect methods of refining,

however, 50 per cent. is lost in working it up. The iron is <sup>JUBBULPore DISTRICT.</sup> of excellent quality as it is smelted with charcoal, but it is believed that the deposits are not sufficiently large to repay the expenditure of capital on ironworks. Steel is made with manganese by similar methods at Johlí in Sihorá, and used locally for agricultural implements. Manganese ores occur at Gosalpur, Sihorá, Khitolá and other villages, and mining leases have been taken out. Copper ores and argentiferous galena with traces of gold occur at Sleomanábád, and a mining lease has been obtained by a barrister of Jubbulpore. The limestone deposits of Murwára are worked by a number of capitalists, European and native. The aggregate sales of lime in 1904 were 50,000 tons valued at nearly five lakhs. About 2,500 labourers are employed, principally Kols and Gond. The largest manufacturers of lime also own a fuller's earth quarry, the produce of which is sold to paper mills. Agate pebbles are abundant in the detritus formed by the Deccan trap, and are worked up into various articles of ornament by the local lapidaries. The true or Sulaimáni onyx is said to be sent to Cambay from Jubbulpore. There are a number of sandstone quarries in or near Murwára from which excellent stone is obtained and exported in the shape of posts and slabs. Chips of limestone marble are exported for the facing of walls.

Cotton hand-weaving was formerly an important industry, <sup>Arts and Manufactures.</sup> but has been reduced by the competition of the mills. The principal centres are Garhú and Majholí. The coloured clothes generally worn by women are still woven by hand, as the mills do not yet produce them. The best cloths and carpets are dyed after being woven, *ál* or Indian madder being still used for these heavy cloths, as the foreign dyes change colour and are partly fugitive. Díjerághogari in Murwára and Ramkhirá and Indrána in Sihorá are the principal dyeing centres. Brass and copper vessels are made in Jubbulpore, both by hammering and casting, and cups and ornaments in Panágar. Glass bangles and the round glass flasks in which Ganges water is carried are produced in Katangí. At Tewar near the Marble Rocks various kinds of vessels of white sandstone, marble images, and agate studs and other small ornaments are made by the caste of Lathíás or stone cutters.

**JUBBULPORE  
DISTRICT.  
Factories.**

The Gokuldás Spinning and Weaving Mills, with 288 looms and 15,264 spindles, produced 10,200 cwt. of yarn and 4,798 cwt. of cloth in 1904. The mills are being enlarged by the addition of 300 looms. Only the coarseer counts of yarn are woven, and the produce is sold locally. Large pottery works were started in 1892 and turn out roofing and flooring tiles, bricks and stoneware pipes, which are sold in the local market and also exported. The raw material is obtained from the large deposits of white clay formed from the limestone rocks, and the value of produce in 1904 was 2 lakhs. A brewery was opened in 1897 and sends beer to all parts of India. In connection with the brewery there is an ice factory which supplies the local demand. All these factories and also a gun carriage factory and an oil and flour mill are situated at Jubbulpore. In Murwára eight small flour mills have been started, being worked by water power and owned by natives, and there are also paint and oil mills, worked by water power, in which chocolate-coloured paint is produced from yellow ochre and red oxide of iron. There are six printing presses in the town of Jubbulpore.

**Commerce.**

Wheat and oilseeds are the principal exports. Hemp is sent both to Calcutta and Bombay for export to England. Considerable quantities of *gñi* and forest produce are despatched from Jubbulpore, but most of these articles come from Seoní and Mandlá. Hides and horns, bones and dried beef are also largely exported. Other exports are the manufactured and mineral products already mentioned. Salt comes principally from the Sámbar Lake and also from Bombay and Gujarát, sugar from the Mauritius, and *gur* (unrefined sugar) from Bihár. Kerosene oil is now universally used for lighting, vegetable oil being quite unable to compete with it. Country cloth is imported from Ahmadábád and also from the Berár and Nágpur mills, as the local mills cannot weave cloth of any fineness. There is a considerable trade in aniline dyes, and synthetic indigo has begun to find a market in the last three years. Transparent glass bangles are now brought in large numbers from Germany. A European firm deals in oilseeds, wheat and myrabolams, and has most of the export trade. The rest of the traffic is

managed by Bhātias from Bombay and Cutchi Muhammad-  
ans. Mārwaris only act as local brokers and do not export  
grain by rail. The leading weekly markets are at Panāgar,  
Barolā, Shahpurā, Pātan, Katangī, Bilherī, Silondī, and Uma-  
riā. Numerous religious fairs are held at the different sacred  
places on the Narbadā and elsewhere, but trade is only import-  
ant at those of Bherāghāt and Kumbhi.

JUBBULPORE  
DISTRICT.

The main line from Bombay to Calcutta runs through Railways.  
the centre of the District with a length of 93 miles, and 9  
stations are situated within its limits, including the three towns  
of Jubbulpore, Sihorā and Murwāra. At Jubbulpore the  
Great Indian Peninsula Railway meets the East Indian.  
From Katnī-junction the Bīna-Katnī connection of the Great  
Indian Peninsula Railway branches off to Damoh and Saugor  
in the west, and a branch of the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway  
leads east to Bilāspur. The Sātpurā extension of the Bengal-  
Nāgpur Railway, which connects Jubbulpore with Gondīā  
station, situated about 100 miles from Nāgpur towards  
Calcutta, has recently been completed.

From Jubbulpore a number of metalled roads lead to  
ontlying Districts which, before the undertaking of the  
recently constructed railway lines, were important trade  
and military routes. These are the Jubbulpore-Damoh (63  
miles), the Jubbulpore-Seoni (86 miles), and the Jubbulpore-  
Mandlā (58 miles) roads. Other roads leading from Jubbul-  
pore are those to Pātan, Deorī, and Dindorī in Mandlā, of  
which the two latter are partly metalled while the Pātan  
road is unmetalled. From the south-west of the District  
trade goes to Shahpurā station. The principal roads from  
Sihorā are towards Pātan and Majholī, and are unmetalled.  
A considerable amount of trade comes to Katnī from the  
Nativo States to the north, chiefly by roads from Bijerāgho-  
garh, from Rewah through Barhī, and from Damoh. The  
communications of the south of the District are excellent,  
but those of the north are not so advanced, apart from the  
railways. The total length of metalled roads is 108 and of  
unmetalled 301 miles, and the expenditure on maintenance in  
1903-04 was Rs. 67,000. More than 200 miles of the more  
important roads are managed by the Public Works department

**JUBBULPORE DISTRICT.** and the remainder by the District council. The length of existing avenues is 74 miles.

**Famine.** Failures of crops occurred in the Jubbulpore District from excessive winter rain in 1818-19 and from deficiency of rainfall in 1833-34, causing considerable distress. In 1868-69, the year of the Bundelkhand famine, the Murwára tahsil was very severely affected, and a large decrease of population was shown at the following census. The District then continued prosperous until 1893-94, when for three years in succession the spring crops were spoilt by excessive winter rain. The poorer classes were distressed in 1896, and some relief was necessary, while in the following year Jubbulpore was very severely affected. Nearly 100,000 persons or 13 per cent. of the population were in receipt of relief in March 1897, and the total expenditure was 19 lakhs. After two favourable seasons followed the famine of 1899-00. The failure of crops in this was, if anything, more extensive than in 1897, but the people were in a better condition to meet it, and owing to the generous administration of relief the effect of the famine was far less severe. The numbers on relief reached 65,000 or nearly 9 per cent. of the population in July 1897, and the total expenditure was 9 lakhs. A number of tanks were constructed or repaired by Government agency and some field embankments were made, besides various improvements to communications.

**District sub-  
divisions and  
staff.**

The Deputy Commissioner is aided by four Assistant and Extra-Assistant Commissioners. For administrative purposes the District is divided into three tahsils, each of which has a tahsildár, with naib-tahsildárs at Sihorá and Murwára. Jubbulpore is the headquarters of an Executive Engineer, who is in charge of the Jubbulpore, Mandlá and Seoná Districts, of an Executive Engineer for irrigation and of a Forest Officer.

**Civil and  
Criminal  
Justice.**

The civil staff consists of a District and three Subordinate Judges, a Small Cause Court Judge for Jubbulpore City, and a Munsiff for Jubbulpore tahsil. The Divisional and Sessions Judge of the Jubbulpore Division has jurisdiction in the District. Crime is light, but the District is sometimes visited by

professional coiners, [or] dacoits from the neighbouring Native States. JUBBULPORE  
DISTRICT.

Neither the Gond nor Maráthá governments had any fixed principles for the realisation of revenue nor were any kinds of right in land recognized. The policy of the Maráthás was directed merely to the extortion of as much money as possible. Rents were commonly collected from the ryots direct, and when farming was practised short leases only were granted on very high rents, which sometimes amounted to more than the village assets. For some years after the cession in 1818 short-term settlements were made, the demand being fixed on the first occasion at 4.18 lakhs, and subsequently rising in 1825 to 6.41 lakhs. This assessment proved, however, too heavy, and in 1835 a twenty years settlement was made and the revenue fixed at 4.76 lakhs. Under it the District prospered greatly. Revision was postponed for some years owing to the Mutiny, but in 1868 a thirty years settlement was concluded, at which the revenue was raised to 5.69 lakhs, including Rs. 60,000 assessed on the subsequently included estate of Bijerághogarh. During the currency of this settlement, which almost coincided with the opening of the railway, Jubbulpore enjoyed a period of great agricultural prosperity. Cultivation increased by 35 per cent. and the price of wheat by 239 per cent., while that of other grains was doubled. The income of the proprietors rose by 61 per cent., mainly owing to large enhancements of the rental. The latest settlement, commenced in 1888 and completed in 1894, raised the revenue to 10 lakhs; an increase of 65 per cent. on that previously paid. The new assessment was not excessive, and would have been easily payable, but the successive disastrous seasons, of which mention has been made, necessitated substantial reductions in the demand, and the revenue has now (1903-04) been reduced to Rs. 8,77,000. The average rental incidence per cultivated acre at settlement was R. 1-3-8 (maximum R. 3-12-1, minimum R. 0-3-1), and the revenue incidence was R. 0-11-11 (maximum R. 1-15-3, minimum R. 0-1-7). The total receipts

JUBBULPORE from land revenue and all sources have been, in thousands of rupees :—

	1880-81.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-01.
Land revenue ...	5.73	5.78	9.10	8.67
Total revenue ...	11.41	12.76	14.87	15.03

Local Boards  
and Municipalities.

Local affairs outside municipal areas are entrusted to a District council under which are three local boards, each having jurisdiction over one tahsil. The local boards have no independent income, but perform inspection duty and supervise minor improvements. The income of the District council in 1903-04 was Rs. 87,000. The expenditure was Rs. 84,000, mainly on civil works Rs. 29,000, and education Rs. 24,000. JUBBULPORE, SIMORA, and MURWARA are municipal towns.

Police and  
Jails.

The police force consists of 751 officers and men, including a special reserve of 55 men, 8 railway police, and 10 mounted constables, under a District Superintendent. There are 1,721 village watchmen for 2,298 inhabited villages. The District has a Central jail with accommodation for 1,463 prisoners including 150 female prisoners. The daily average number of male prisoners in 1904 was 777 and that of female prisoners 32. Cloth for pillow and mattress cases, net money-bags, wire netting and Scotch and Kidderminster carpets are made in the Central Jail.

Education.

In respect of education Jubbulpore stands second among the Districts of the Province, 5.3 per cent. of the population (10 per cent. males and 6 per cent. females) being able to read and write. Statistics of the number of pupils under instruction are as follows—1880-81, 8,380; 1890-91, 9,805; 1900-01, 12,070; 1903-04, 14,141, including 1,811 girls. The educational institutions comprise an Arts College in Jubbulpore City, which also contains law and engineering classes; 3 high schools; 3 training schools for teachers; 6 English and 15 vernacular middle schools, 104 primary schools, and two special schools. The total expenditure on education in 1903-04 was Rs. 1,40,000, out of which

Rs. 16,000 was realised from fees. The percentage of children under instruction to those of school-going age is 14. Jubbulpore city also contains a Reformatory to which youthful offenders from the whole Province are sent and taught different handicrafts. It had 125 inmates in 1904.

Jubbulpore  
District.

The District has 14 hospitals and dispensaries, with accommodation for 131 in-patients. In 1904, 108,386 cases, of which 1,585 were of indoor patients, were treated in these institutions, and 3,422 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 20,000, chiefly from Provincial funds. A lunatic asylum in Jubbulpore contains 178 patients.

Hospitals and  
dispensaries.

Vaccination is compulsory in the municipal towns of Jubbulpore (including the cantonment), Sihora and Murwara. The number of successful vaccinations in 1903-04 was 83 per 1,000 of the population of the District.

Vaccination.

(Khán Bahádur Aulád Husain, *Settlement Report*, 1895. A District gazetteer is being compiled.)

**Jubbulpore Tahsil.**—Southern tahsil of the Jubbulpore District, Central Provinces, situated between 22° 49' and 23° 32' N. and 79° 21' and 80° 36' E., with an area of 1,519 square miles. The population in 1901 was 332,488 persons, and in 1891 was 361,889. The tahsil contains one town Jubbulpore, the headquarters of the District and tahsil, population 90,316, and 1,076 inhabited villages. The total density of population is 219 persons per square mile, which is considerably higher than the District average. Excluding 113 square miles of Government forest, 63 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 799 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 4,54,000 and that for cesses Rs. 51,000. The tahsil contains part of the highly fertile wheat-growing tract known as the Jubbulpore Haveli on the west, some good but more uneven land lying east of the railway, and some hill and forest country to the east towards Khandam and Baghrat and also on the southern border.

Jubbulpore  
Tahsil.

**Sihora Tahsil.**—The central tahsil of the Jubbulpore District of the Central Provinces, lying between 23° 19' and 23° 55' N. and 79° 49' and 80° 38' E., with an area of 1,197 square miles. The population in 1901 was 180,424.

Sihora  
Tahsil.



**SIMORA  
TAHSIL.**

persons and in 1891 was 212,949. The tahsil contains one town SIMORA, its headquarters, population 5,595, and 706 inhabited villages. The density of population is 156 persons per square mile, which is lower than the District average. Excluding 96 square miles of Government forest, 55 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 563 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 2,87,000 and that for cesses Rs. 32,000. The tahsil contains part of the highly fertile wheat-growing tract known as the Jubbulpore Haveli, though in Sihora the land is not quite so level or productive as in the Jubbulpore tahsil. On the west and east broken and hilly country borders the Vindhyan and Sâtpurâ ranges.

**MURWARA  
TAHSIL.**

**Murwara Tahsil.**—Northern tahsil of the Jubbulpore District of the Central Provinces, lying between 23° 36' and 24° 8' N. and 79° 58' and 80° 58' E., with an area of 1,196 square miles. The population in 1901 was 161,073 persons, and in 1891 was 173,308. The tahsil contains one town MURWARA, its headquarters, population 14,137, and 516 inhabited villages. The density of population per square mile is 135 persons, which is considerably lower than the District average. Excluding 137 square miles of Government forest, 66 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 607 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 1,29,000 and that for cesses Rs. 14,000. The country is broken and uneven, being occupied by outlying spurs of the Vindhyan and Sâtpurâ ranges. The north-eastern portion forming part of the Bijerâghogarkh *pargana*, is the most fertile. In contradistinction to the rest of the District, the prevalent soil is sandy, and autumn crops are principally grown.

**JUBBULPORE  
TOWN.  
Descriptive.**

**Jubbulpore Town.**—The headquarters town of the Jubbulpore tahsil and District, Central Provinces, situated in 23° 10' N. and 79° 57' E., 616 miles from Bombay by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and 784 miles from Calcutta by the East Indian, the two lines meeting at the town. A branch narrow-gauge railway has recently been opened to Gondia, 117 miles distant, on the Bengal-Nâgpur system. The town

stands in a rocky basin surrounded by low hills, and about six miles from the Narbadá river. The gorge of the Narbadá at Bherághát, where the river passes through the well-known Marble Rocks, is 13 miles distant. Jubbulpore is well laid out, with broad and regular streets, and numerous tanks and gardens have been constructed in the environs. Its elevation is 1,300 feet; the climate is comparatively cool, and Jubbulpore is generally considered the most desirable of the plain stations in the Province, of which it ranks as the second city. The town is steadily increasing in importance, the population at the last four enumerations having been: 1872, 55,188; 1881, 75,705; 1891, 84,481; 1901, 90,316. Of the population in 1901, 63,997 persons were Hindns, 21,036 Muhammadans, and 3,432 Christians, of whom 2,000 were Europeans and Eurasians. Four miles to the west of the town, and included in the municipality, is Garhá, once the capital of the Gond dynasty of Garhá-Mandlá, whose ancient keep, known as the Madan Mahal, still crowns a low granite range with the old town lying beneath it. This was constructed about 1100 by Madan Singh and is now in ruins. It is a plain small building of no architectural pretensions, and its only interest lies in its picturesque position, perched upon the very top of the hill on a huge boulder of rock. In the sixteenth century the capital was removed to Mandlá, and the importance of Garhá declined. Of the history of Jubbulpore itself nothing is known until it was selected by the Maráthás as their headquarters on the annexation of Mandlá in 1781. In an old inscription now in the Nágpur Museum the name is given as Javalipatna. Jubbulpore subsequently became the headquarters of the Commissioner of the Saugor and Nerbudda territories, which were merged in the Central Provinces in 1861.

A municipality was constituted in 1864, and the average municipal receipts and expenditure for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 2,62,000 and Rs. 2,57,000 respectively. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 3,54,000, the main sources being octroi Rs. 1,05,000, and water rate Rs. 29,000, and the total expenditure was Rs. 2,98,000, including refunds Rs. 56,000, conservancy Rs. 34,000, repayment

JUBBULPORE  
TOWN.

of loans Rs. 28,000, general administration and collection of taxes Rs. 21,000 and water-supply Rs. 13,000. Previous to the construction of the existing waterworks the town depended for its supply on a number of unreliable wells, and it was not uncommon for water to be retailed in the hot weather at one or two annas a potful. The waterworks were opened in 1883, and extended to the cantonment and the civil station in 1894. They consist of a reservoir constructed on the Khandári stream, about 7 miles from the city. The masonry embankment is 1,680 feet long and 60 feet high, and the catchment area of the reservoir is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  square miles. Water is conveyed to the town in pipes by gravitation. The total cost of the works was 9·4 lakhs, including the extension. The effect of the constant intake of water in a city whose situation does not provide good natural drainage has, however, been to render the ground somewhat sodden, and a drainage scheme to counteract this tendency is under consideration.

## Cantonment.

The town includes a cantonment with a population of 13,157 persons. The average receipts and expenditure of the cantonment fund for the decade ending 1901 were about Rs. 25,000, and in 1903-04 were Rs. 32,000. The ordinary garrison has hitherto consisted of one battalion of British and one of native infantry, a squadron of native cavalry and two field batteries, but it is proposed to increase it. There are also two companies of railway volunteers, and one of the Nágpur Volunteer Rifles. Jubbulpore is the headquarters of a General Officer and the garrison is included in the Mhow Division. A central Gun carriage factory for India was opened in 1905. A Government grass farm combined with a military dairy has also been established.

## Trade.

Jubbulpore is an important commercial and industrial town, and receives the grain and other produce of the greater part of the Jubbulpore District, and of portions of Sóni and Mandla. The factories include spinning and weaving mills, pottery works, a brewery and ice-factory, oil and flour mills, the workshops of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and four hydraulic presses for hemp. The local handicrafts are cloth-weaving, brass-working, stone-cutting, and the manufacture of images from marble, and of studs.

buttons and other ornaments from agate pebbles. Till lately a considerable tent-making industry was carried on, at first by the Thags, who were kept in confinement here, and their descendants, and afterwards at a Reformatory school; but this has now ceased. There are six printing presses with English, Hindí and Urdú type, and an English weekly and a Hindí paper are published.

JUBBULPORE  
TOWN.

Jubbulpore is the headquarters not only of the ordinary District staff, but of the Commissioner and Divisional Judge of the Jubbulpore Division, a Conservator of Forests and a Superintending and an Irrigation Engineer, the Superintendent of Telegraphs for the Central Provinces, and an Inspector of Schools. One of the three Central jails and one of the two lunatic asylums in the Province are located here. The industries carried on in the Central jail include the weaving of cloth for pillow and mattress cases, and of net money-bags, the manufacture of wire netting for local use, and of thick bedding cloth and Scotch and Kidderminster carpets for sale. Fifty-five looms were employed in making carpets in 1903-04. The Church Missionary Society, and the Roman Catholic, Wesleyan and American Methodist Churches have mission stations in Jubbulpore and support several orphanages and schools. A Government College affiliated to the Allahábád University has law and engineering classes attached to it, and contained 114 students in 1903-04. There are also three high schools, one maintained by the Church Missionary Society with 79 students, one by a Muhammadan Society with 8 students, and one by a Hindu Society with 87 students, training institutions for male and female teachers, and 53 other schools. Schools for European boys and girls are maintained by the Church Missionary Society and the Roman Catholic Mission, with the assistance of Government grants. There is also a Reformatory to which youthful offenders from the whole Province are sent and taught different handicrafts. It contains 125 inmates, and is the successor of the old school for the children of Thags arrested in the Central Provinces. Jubbulpore contains a general hospital, the Lady Elgin hospital for women, three dispensaries, and a veterinary dispensary.

Officials and  
public institu-  
tions.

## KATNI.

**Katni.**—A railway junction in the Murwára tahsil of Jubbulpore District, Central Provinces, situated in  $23^{\circ} 50' N.$  and  $80^{\circ} 24' E.$ , and adjoining the town of MURWARA. Katni is situated on the East Indian Railway, 673 miles from Bombay and 727 from Calcutta. It is connected with Biláspur on the main line of the Bengal-Nágpur system by a link of 198 miles, and with Bína on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Itársi to Agra by one of 163 miles. These two connecting lines may eventually form part of the through route from Calcutta to Karachi.

**Marble Rocks.**—( $23^{\circ} 8' N.$  and  $79^{\circ} 48' E.$ ) The well-known gorge of the Narbadá river, situated near the village of Bherághát, in the Jubbulpore District, Central Provinces, 13 miles from Jubbulpore by road, and 3 miles from Mírganj station on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. The river here winds in a deep narrow stream through rocks of magnesian limestone 100 feet high, giving an extremely picturesque effect, especially by moonlight. One place where the rocks approach very closely is called the Monkey's Leap. Indra is said to have made this channel for the waters of the pent up stream, and the footprints left on the rock by the elephant of the god still receive adoration. The greatest height of the rocks above water level is 105 feet, and the depth of water at the same place 48 feet, but the basin near the travellers' bungalow is 160 feet deep. On a hill beside the river are some curious remains of statuary. A modern temple is surrounded by a high circular wall of much more ancient date, against the inside of which is built a verandah supported by columns set at regular intervals. The pilasters built against the wall opposite each of the pillars divide the wall space into panels, and in each of these on a pedestal is a life-sized image of a god, goddess, &c., for the most part in a very mutilated condition. Most of the figures are four-armed goddesses, and the name of the temple is the Chaunsath Jogini or sixty-four female devotees. The statues have symbols in the shape of various animals carved on their pedestals. Bherághát is sacred as the junction of the Narbadá with the little stream



SIMORA  
TOWN.

by the Zanāna Mission of the Church of England, and a dispensary.

MANDLA  
DISTRICT.  
Boundaries,  
configuration,  
and hill and  
river systems.

**Mandla District.**—A District in the Jubbulpore Division of the Central Provinces, lying between  $22^{\circ} 12'$  and  $23^{\circ} 23' N.$  and  $79^{\circ} 58'$  and  $81^{\circ} 45' E.$ , with an area of 5,054 square miles. Mandla is the most easterly of the Sātpurā plateau Districts and occupies a stretch of wild, hilly country forming part of the main eastern range of the Sātpurā hills, and culminating in the plateau of Amarkantak just beyond the border in Rewah State. It is bounded on the north-west by Jubbulpore District; and north-east by Rewah State; on the south and south-west by Bālāghāt and Seoni, and on the south-east by Bilāspur District and Kawardhā State. The Narbadā river, rising at Amarkantak, flows first to the north-west separating Mandla from Rewah, and then turning to the west crosses the District and curves tortuously through the central range of hills; when rather more than half-way across, it makes a sudden bend to the south, thrown back by a long spur running out from the central range as far as Mandla town, and after almost enclosing the town in a loop, again turns and flows north and north-west to Jubbulpore, bounding the District for some distance on its western border. The Narbadā is the centre of the drainage system, and during its passage through the District receives the waters of numerous tributary streams from the south and north. The larger and richer portion of Mandla lies south of the Narbadā and consists of a succession of hill ranges running down to the river, and separated by the valleys of a number of its affluents. The principal of these are the valley of the Banjār on the west, those of the Burhner and its tributaries in the centre, and those of the Kharmer and a number of smaller streams to the east. The valley of the Banjār contains the best cultivated tract in the District called the Havēlī, which extends on both sides of the river for some miles south of its junction with the Narbadā at Mandla. South of the Havēlī the Banjār valley is covered with forest. This is the lowest part of the District, and has an elevation of about 1,500 feet. East of the Banjār runs a lofty range of hills approaching the Narbadā at Rāmūnagar, and separating the valley or plateau of the





MANDLA  
DISTRICT.

*kusumb* (*Schleichera trijuga*), *haldu* (*Adina cordifolia*), and *dhaurd* (*Duogeissus latifolia*).

## Fauna.

Game is still plentiful in most of the District forests, especially in the central and southern regions. Towards the east it has been almost exterminated in many tracts by the snares and poisoned arrows of the Baigás. Bison are found in most of the forests, and these animals are now being carefully preserved, but they are nowhere very numerous, as they appear to suffer periodically from epidemics of cow pox, with which they are doubtless infected by tame cattle grazing in the forests. The wild buffalo is not now met with, though it must at one time have been common, and it has been shot in the Phen valley within the last fifteen or twenty years. The deer tribe is well represented. The *bárásinghá* or swamp deer is found in large herds in the *sál* forests. *Sámbar*, spotted, and barking deer are common, and the mouse deer is also found. *Nilgai* and black buck are frequently seen in the open plains, but *chinkára* or ravine deer are somewhat rare. Tiger, panther, and bear are found in all the forests. The numerous packs of wild dogs are very destructive to game. Partridges and quail are fairly common, but water birds are not numerous, as there are very few tanks. Mahseer and other varieties of fish are found in the Narbadá, but seldom attain to full size.

## Climate.

The climate is cool and pleasant. December and January are the coldest months, and occasional frosts occur, though ice is not often seen in Mandlá. On the higher plateaux it is by no means rare. Malarial fever of a somewhat virulent type is prevalent during the monsoon and autumn months.

## Rainfall.

The average annual rainfall is 52 inches. Hailstorms not infrequently occur in the winter months and do serious damage to the crops, and thunderstorms are common in the hot weather.

## History.

The Gond Rájput dynasty of Garhá-Mandlá commenced, according to an inscription in the palace of Rámnagar, in the fifth century, with the accession of Jádhd Rai, a Rájput adventurer who entered the service of an old Gond king, married his daughter, and succeeded him on the throne.

Cunningham places the date two centuries later, in 664. The original seat of the dynasty is supposed to have been Garhā near Jubbulpore, but this theory is also discredited by the fact that the Kalachuri Rājput dynasty was in power here as late as the 12th century. In any case the Garhā-Mandlā kingdom was a petty local chiefship until the accession of Sangrām Sāh, the 47th king, in 1480. This prince extended his dominions over the Narbadā valley, and possibly Bhopāl, Saugor and Damoh, and most of the Sātpurā hill country, and left 52 forts or districts to his son. The control of the Garhā-Mandlā kings over their extended principality was, however, shortlived, for in 1564 Asaf Khān, the imperial viceroy, invaded their territories. The queen Durgāvati, then acting as regent for her infant son, met him near the fort of Singorgarh in Damoh, but being defeated, she retired past Garhā towards Mandlā, and took up a strong position in a narrow defile. Here, mounted on an elephant, she bravely headed her troops in the defence of the pass, and notwithstanding that she had received an arrow-wound in her eye refused to retire. But by an extraordinary coincidence the river in the rear of her position, which had been nearly dry a few hours before the action commenced, began suddenly to rise and soon became unfordable. Finding her plan of retreat thus frustrated, and seeing her troops give way, the queen snatched a dagger from her elephant driver and plunged it into her breast. Asaf Khān acquired an immense booty, including, it is said, more than a thousand elephants. From this time the fortunes of the Mandlā kingdom rapidly declined. The districts afterwards formed into the State of Bhopāl were ceded to the emperor Akbar to obtain his recognition of the next Rājā Chandra Sāh. In the time of Chandra Sāh's grandson Prem Narāyan, the Bundelās invaded Narsinghpur and stormed the castle of Chanrāgarh. During the succeeding reigns family quarrels led the rival parties to solicit foreign intervention in support of their pretensions, and for this a price had always to be paid. Part of Saugor was ceded to the Mughal emperor, the south of Saugor and Damoh to Chhatarsāl Rājā of Panna, and Seoni to the Gond Rājā of Dewgarh. In 1742 the

MANDLA  
DISTRICT.

Peshwá invaded Mandlá and this was followed by the execution of *chaugh*. The Bhonslas of Nágpur annexed the territories now constituting Bálaghat and part of Bhandára. Finally in 1781 the last king of the Gond Rájput line was deposed, and Mandlá was annexed to the Maráthá government of Saugor then under the control of the Peshwá. At some period of the Gond kingdom the District must have been comparatively well populated, as numerous remains of villages can be observed in land now covered by forest, but one of the Saugor rulers Vásudeo Pandit is said to have extorted several lakhs of rupees from the people in eighteen months by unbridled oppression, and to have left it ruined and depopulated. In 1790 Mandlá was appropriated by the Bhonsla Rájás of Nágpur, in accordance with a treaty concluded some years previously with the Peshwa, and during the period of eighteen years which followed, the District was repeatedly overrun by the Pindáris, who, however, did not succeed in taking the town of Mandlá. In 1818 Mandlá became British territory, and as the Maráthá garrison in the fort refused to surrender, a force under General Marshall took it by assault. The peace of the District was not subsequently disturbed, except for a brief period during the Mutiny of 1857, when the chiefs of Rámgarh, Shahpurá, and Sohágpur joined the mutineers, taking with them their Gond retainers, who, though not really disaffected, followed their chiefs with their usual unquestioning faithfulness. Order was restored early in 1858, and the estates of Rámgarh and Shahpurá were subsequently confiscated, while Sohágpur was made over to Rowah. The last representative of the Gond Rájput kings, Shankar Sáh, had retired to Jubbulpore where he held an estate of a few villages. During the Mutiny he became disaffected towards the British Government, and attempted to raise a party in Jubbulpore, then in a very disturbed condition, with a view to rebellion. On being captured and convicted he and his son were blown away from guns.

## Archæology.

The District contains few notable buildings. Deogon at the junction of the Narbádá and Burliner, 20 miles north-east of Mandlá, has an old temple. At Kukarrámath, 12 miles from Dindori, are the remains of numerous temples, most

of which have been excavated and carried away to make the buildings at Dindori. The palace of the Gond Rájás of Garhā Mandlā, - built in 1683, is situated at Rāmnagar, about ten miles east of Mandlā on the south bank of the Narbadā, and is in a fairly good state of preservation but of little architectural merit. There are numerous other ruins, as Rāmnagar remained the seat of government for eight reigns.

MANDLA DISTRICT.

The population of the District in the last three years of The people; census was as follows: 1881, 300,659; 1891, 339,341; 1901, 317,250. The increase between 1881 and 1891 was 13 per cent., and was attributed partly to the increased accuracy of the census. During the last decade the decrease was 6½ per cent., the Mandlā tahsil suffering most severely. The District was severely affected by famine in 1897, and there was great mortality among the forest tribes. The figures of population given below have been adjusted on account of the transfer of territory since the census of 1901:—

Tahsil.	Area in square miles.	Number of		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Mandlā ...	2,630	1	931	178,771	70	-8.4	4,184
Dindori ...	2,521	...	851	135,629	55	-3.0	1,912
District Total ...	5,051	1	1,831	319,400	63	-6.5	6,096

In 1904 an area of 15 square miles with 11 villages containing 1,150 persons was transferred from Bālāghāt to Mandlā, and 5 square miles of Government forest from Mandlā to Bālāghāt. The corrected District totals of area and population are 5,054 square miles and 318,400 persons. The total density of population is 63 persons per square mile, which is smaller than that of any District in the Province with the exception of Chānda. The District contains one town, MANDLA, its headquarters, and 1,834 inhabited villages. The villages are usually very small, the average number of persons to each being only 174. The figures of religion show that 121,000 persons or 38 per cent. of the population are Hindus, and 191,000 or 60 per cent. Animists. Practically all the forest tribes are returned as still professing their own religion.

MANDLA  
DISTRICT.

Muhammadans number only 5,000. Nearly 75 per cent. of the population speak the Baghelí dialect of Eastern Hindí and nearly 25 per cent. Gondí. The former dialect is spoken in the Central Provinces only in Jubbulpore and Mandlá, and resembles Chhattísgarhí in many respects. About half of the Gonds speak their own language and the other half a corrupt Hindí, which is also the language of the Baigás and Kols.

Their castes  
and occupa-  
tions.

The principal landholding castes are Bráhmans (7,000), Kalárs, Gonds, Lodhís (5,000), Baniás, and Káyasths. Next to Gonds the most important castes numerically are Ahírs (23,000), Pankás (14,000) and Telis (10,000). The Kalárs were the old money-lenders to the Gonds before the advent of the Baniá. The Lodhís were formerly the chief landholding caste and possessed several fine estates. The Gonds number 160,000 or just half of the population. They are lazy cultivators, and favour the small millets *kodon* and *kutkí*, which in new soil yield a large return with a minimum of exertion. The Baigás number only about 14,000. They are probably the first residents of the District, and a Baigá is always the village priest and magician, on account of the more intimate and longstanding acquaintance he is supposed to possess with the local deities. The Baigás have always practised *devar* or shifting cultivation in patches of forest, manured by burning the timber which has been cut down on it. When they were debarred from continuing this destructive method in Government forest, a reserve of 24,000 acres was allotted to them for this purpose, in which there are still a few villages. Most of them have now, however, begun to cultivate in the ordinary manner. Until recently the Baigá considered that hunting was the only dignified occupation for a man, and left as much as possible of the work of cultivation to his womenkind. About 83 per cent. of the population of the District are dependant on agriculture.

Christian  
Missions.

Of the 560 Christians, 536 are natives and most of these belong to the Church of England mission to the Gonds, which has stations in Mandlá and four other villages. A number of European missionaries belong to it and the institutions supported include schools at all the stations, and two dispensaries.

The varieties of soil are mainly those formed by the decomposition of basalt rock, though in the south, and especially on the high south-eastern plateau, areas of sandy soil occur. Black soil is generally found only in patches in lowlying valleys, but owing to the fact that the total area in cultivation is so small, it furnishes a higher proportion of the whole than in most Districts. The remaining land consists mainly of the shallow stony soil in which only the minor autumn crops are grown. Much of the forest stands on good culturable soil, and although the land newly broken up in the last thirty years is generally of the poorer varieties, still the expansion of cultivation is far from reaching its limit. About 31 per cent. of the area occupied is uncultivated, resting fallows being essential in the absence of any artificial stimulus to allow the poorer land to recuperate, and being as already explained a leading feature of Gond agriculture. Wheat is sown in embanked fields in the tract round Mandla and in open fields in the villages to the south-west, where the ground is too uneven, and the soil not sufficiently adhesive to allow of embankments.

MANDLA DISTRICT.  
General agricultural conditions.

About 800 square miles, formerly Government forest, are in process of settlement on ryotwari tenure, while 10,000 acres are held wholly or partially free of revenue and 33 square miles have been sold outright under the Waste Land Rules. The balance is held on the ordinary tenures. The following table gives the leading statistics of cultivation in 1903-04, areas being in square miles:—

Chief agricultural statistics and crops.

Tahsil	Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated	Culturable waste	Forest.
Mandla ...	2,537	608	5	731	906
Disanderi ...	2,521	682	..	671	942
Total ...	5,058	1,290	5	1,402	1,848

Wheat covers 16½ square miles or 13 per cent. of the cropped area, rice 173 square miles or 17 per cent., the oil-seeds 77 and jaggu 145 square miles and the small millets koda and kull 444 square miles. The main feature of recent statistics is the decline in the popularity of wheat, and the

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increased in that of almost every other crop, as a result of the succession of unfavourable wheat harvests. But in the twenty years previous to the summary settlement of 1890, the area under wheat had more than doubled, while that of rice had increased by nearly 50 per cent.

Improvements  
in agricultural  
practice.

The method of rice cultivation is peculiar, the young shoots being ploughed up as soon as they appear above the ground. Those which are ploughed or trodden well into the ground subsequently take root more strongly, while those left exposed on the surface die off and the crop is thus thinned. Only a little rice is transplanted. The practice of raising two crops in the embanked wheat fields has grown up in the last 30 years, and second crops are normally grown on about 80 square miles. Manure is applied to this area. Considerable quantities of waste or forest land have in recent years been allotted for cultivation on the ryotwari tenure, the area so taken up amounting to 217 square miles, on which a revenue of Rs. 57,000 is paid. Practically no loans have been taken under the Land Improvement Act, while between 1894 and 1904 1.25 lakhs were advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

Cattle,  
ponies and  
sheep.

The cattle used are bred locally. They are small and weak, no care being exercised in breeding, though Mandla has every facility for the production of an excellent class of oxen. Those raised on the Raigarh and Ramgarh plateaux are the best. Buffaloes are not generally used for cultivation but they are bred, and the females kept for the manufacture of ghee, the young males being sold in Chhattisgarh. The upper classes generally keep a small pony of the usual type for riding, as carts cannot travel except on three or four main roads and in the Havali during the open season. Ponies and bullocks are also largely used for pack carriages. There are very few goats or sheep.

## Irrigation.

Irrigation is insignificant, being applied only to sugar-cane, which covers about 500 acres, and to vegetable and garden crops, including the betel-vine gardens, of which there are a number round Mandla. The sandy soil, of the south and south-east would, however, repay irrigation. Considerable stretches of sandy or *laghkar* land are exposed on the banks

of the Nalbada, which are flooded every year by the river, and fertilised by a deposit of silt, and on these vegetables and tobacco are raised.

MANDLA DISTRICT.

The Government forests cover an area of 1,848 square miles, and are distributed all over the District though the most valuable are in the south and south-east. About 854 miles, not included in this area, have lately been demarcated for disforestation and agricultural settlement. The most important tree is the *sal* (*Shorea robusta*), which forms almost pure forests, and occupies the whole of the eastern portion of the District, as well as a fringe of varying depth along the northern and southern boundaries. It is found in the south in the forests known as the Banjai and Phen reserves, where specimens 100 feet in height and 10 feet in girth are not uncommon. The western and central portions of the District contain the ordinary type of mixed forest common all over the Central Provinces. Teak is not very plentiful and does not attain large dimensions. Bamboos, which are very numerous in these mixed forests, are their most generally useful and valuable product. Owing to the heavy rainfall, the *sal* forests in the east of the District are well watered by running streams, and are widely known as splendid grazing grounds for cattle, large herds being brought to them annually from all parts of the Province for the hot weather months. Among the minor products of the forests the most important is the myriabolam. In an exceptionally favourable season the Government forests of the District have been known to yield more than 1,000 tons of this commodity. Other minor products include lac, resin from the *sal* tree, *tilkhur*, a species of arrowroot, and many others. The forest revenue in 1903-04 was Rs. 1,42,000, of which about Rs. 44,000 were realised from sales of timber and Rs. 47,000 from grazing.

Forests.

Extensive iron-ore deposits occur in the District, and are quarried and smelted by Agarhis or Gond iron workers. The industry does not flourish, as their methods are very primitive and they find it difficult to compete with imported iron. The furnaces used are so small that each smelting does not yield more than 2 lb. of refined iron. Only 84 tons of iron were produced in 1904. Manganese is stated to have

Minerals.



**MANDLA  
DISTRICT.**

been found within three miles of Mandlá at Sabasradhára. Lime-stone of good quality is common in many parts of the District, but is only quarried in small quantities to meet local requirements.

**Arts and  
Manufactures.**

Ordinary thick country cloth is produced in most of the larger villages, but no fine material is woven except by a few families of Koshtás in Mandlá town. Machine-made cloth is now worn, even in the interior, except by the forest tribes. Other classes of agriculturists usually wear hand-woven loin-cloths, and coats of cloth from the mills. The vessels manufactured from bell-metal in Mandlá are well known locally. Glass bangles are made in Itká near Nainpur, and lac bangles in Mandlá, Bamhni and Hirdenagar. The most important bazar or weekly market is at Pindrai on the western border towards Seoni, which is both a cattle and grain market, and a centre for the disposal of local produce, and the purchase of imported commodities. The other large bazars are at Mandlá, Bamhni and Newári in the Mandlá tahsil and at Kukarrámath in the Dindori tahsil. Two important annual fairs are held, at Hirdenagar situated at the junction of the Banjár with the Matári, and at Madhpuri on the Narbadá about eight miles east of Mandlá.

**Commerce.**

Wheat, rice, oilseeds, rapeseed, hemp and *ghát* are the staple exports. From the forests a large quantity of *sál* timber and a little teak is sent, and also lac and myrobolams. Bombay sea-salt and Mauritius sugar come through Jubbulpore. Kerosene oil is generally used for lighting. *Gur* is imported from Cawnpore, and in spite of the cost of carriage can undersell that made locally. The pulse *arhar* is not produced in Mandlá and is imported for consumption, as well as turmeric and all other condiments and spices. Vessels of brass are brought from Mirzápur and of bell-metal from Umrer. Silk and cotton cloth comes principally from Nágpur. Agarwál and Gaboi Baniás conduct the general trade of the District and Punjábi Muhammadans the timber trade.

**Railways  
and Roads.**

The Gondiá-Jubbulpore branch of the Bengal-Nágpur Railway, completed in 1905, passes through a small strip of the District on the south-western border, and has two

stations Nainpur and Pindrai within the District. It is in contemplation to construct a branch line from Nainpur to Mandlá, a distance of about 22 miles by the direct route. At present most of the trade from the west of the District is with Jubbulpore along the only existing metalled road. An alternative route to Jubbulpore through Pindrai attracts some traffic on account of the importance of the Pindrai weekly market. From Dindori, 64 miles to the east of Mandlá, there is an embanked road to Jubbulpore which affords an outlet from the north-west. Dindori is also connected with Birsinghpur and Pandrá stations on the Katni-Bilaspur branch of the Bengal-Nágpur Railway. Carriage has hitherto generally been by pack animals, except on the one or two main routes. The District has 48 miles of metalled and 233 of unmetalled roads, and the annual expenditure on maintenance is Re. 35,000. With the exception of 7 miles kept up by the District council, all roads are maintained by the Public Works department. Only 13 miles of avenues are shown in the returns.

Mandlá suffered from distress or famine in 1818-Famine. 19, 1823-27, and 1833-34. On the first occasion the autumn rains were short and excessive rain fell during the winter months. From 1823 to 1827 a succession of short crops was experienced due to floods, hail and blight, and caused the desertion of many villages. In 1833-34 the autumn rains failed, and the spring crops could not be sown owing to the hardness of the ground, caused by the premature cessation of the rains. Rice was imported from Chhattisgarh by Government agency, but no further details are known regarding these famines. In the general famine of 1868-69 Mandlá was only slightly affected, as the *kodon* crop on which the poorest of the population depend was fairly successful, and no general relief was necessary. When the famine of 1896-97 came upon the District, Mandlá had already suffered from a succession of poor crops for three years. The autumn harvest of 1896 was a total failure, and distress was very severe, especially among the forest tribes, who were inclined to view with suspicion the efforts made by Government to keep them

MANDLA  
DISTRICT.

alive. Relief operations had commenced in June 1896 on account of the previous bad harvests, and they lasted until the end of 1897. The maximum number on relief was 37,000 persons or 11 per cent. of the population in September 1897, and the total expenditure on relief was 7.5 lakhs. In 1899-1900 Mandla was not severely affected.

District sub-  
divisions and  
staff.

The Deputy Commissioner is aided by one Assistant or Extra-Assistant Commissioner. For administrative purposes the District is divided into two tahsils, each of which has a tahsildar and naib-tahsildar. The Forest Officer is generally a member of the Imperial service. The Executive Engineer at Jubbulpore is also in charge of Mandla.

Civil and Cri-  
minal Justice.

The civil staff consists only of a Subordinate Judge who is also District Judge, and a Munsiff at Mandla. The Divisional and Sessions Judge of the Jubbulpore Division has jurisdiction in Mandla. The civil litigation is petty and the crimo extremely light, the commonest class of cases being contraventions of the Excise Act by the illicit manufacture of liquor.

Land Reve-  
nue adminis-  
tration

Mandla is stated to have paid at one time a very high revenue to its Gond rulers, but when it first came under British control it had undergone an interlude of Maráthá maladministration in its worst form. No records of the earlier governments remain, but at the date of the cession in 1818 the revenue paid to the Maráthás is believed to have been Rs. 40,000. Under the Maráthás the revenue was settled annually with the village headmen, who were allowed to retain one-seventh part of it. No rights in land were recognised, but the headmen and tenants were not usually ejected except for default. Numerous miscellaneous taxes were also imposed, the realizations from which are said to have exceeded the ordinary land-revenue. One of these was the sale of widows, who were looked on as government property, and sold according to a sliding scale varying with their age and accomplishments, the highest price being Rs. 1,000. The revenue raised in the first annual settlement after the cession was Rs. 36,000, and subsequent efforts to increase this having only resulted in further impoverishing the District, in 1837 a twenty years settlement was made for Rs. 27,000. On its expiry the

District was summarily assessed for a few years until the completion of the twenty years settlement of 1868 when the revenue was fixed at Rs 62,000, or an increase of more than 48 per cent. on the previous demand. On this occasion a cadastral survey was undertaken, and proprietary rights were conferred on the village headmen. The twenty years settlement expired in 1888, and the District was then summarily assessed for a period of 14 to 15 years, pending the undertaking of a regular cadastral survey. A very large increase in agricultural prosperity had taken place during the currency of the previous assessment, and the price of grain had more than doubled. At revision the land revenue was raised to Rs. 1,08,000, an increase of 64 per cent. on the former demand, but falling at less than 3½ annas per acre in cultivation. The District is now (1905) again under settlement, the previous term having expired, while a new cadastral survey has also been completed. The following table compares the receipts of revenue from land and all sources:—

MANDLA  
DISTRICT.

	1880-81.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-04
Land revenue	90	1,48	1,69	1,78
Total revenue	2,46	4,20	8,15	4,64

Mandla has no District council, and local funds are administered by the Deputy Commissioner, the income from these in 1903-04 being Rs. 31,000. MANDLA is a municipal town.

Local Boards  
and Muni-  
cipalities.

The police force consists of 311 officers and men with 3 mounted constables, under a District Superintendent, besides 1,043 village watchmen for 1,334 inhabited towns and villages. Mandla has a District jail with accommodation for 85 prisoners, including 6 females, the daily average number in 1904 being 69.

Police and  
Jails

In respect of education the District stands 15th in the Province, 3.7 per cent. of the male population being able to read and write in 1901, while only 203 females were returned as literate. The percentage of children under instruction, those of school-going age is 8. Statistics of the number of

Education.

**MANDLA DISTRICT.**

pupils under instruction are as follows:—1880-81, 949; 1890-91, 1,767; 1900-01, 2,586; 1903-04, 3,873, including 283 girls. The educational institutions comprise an English middle school, three vernacular middle schools and 56 primary schools. Mission schools for male and female orphans are maintained at Patpará. The expenditure on education in 1903-04 was Rs. 18,000, of which Rs. 13,500 were provided from Provincial and local funds, and Rs. 1,400 from fees.

**Hospitals and dispensaries.**

The District has six dispensaries, with accommodation for 52 in-patients. In 1904, 25,108 cases, of which 428 were those of in-patients, were treated in them, and 352 operations were performed. The income of the dispensaries in this year was Rs. 4,000, mainly derived from Provincial and local funds.

**Vaccination.**

Vaccination is compulsory in the municipal town of Mandla. The number of persons successfully vaccinated in 1903-04 was 64 per 1,000 of the District population, this result being very favourable.

(J. B. Fuller, *Report on the Summary Settlement*, 1894. a District Gazetteer is being compiled.)

**MANDLA TAHSIL.**

**Mandla Tahsil.**—The southern tahsil of the Mandla District, Central Provinces, lying between 22° 12' and 23° 9' N. and 79° 58' and 81° 12' E., with an area of 2,587 square miles. Population fell to 177,621 in 1901 from 193,928 in 1891. The area and population have been slightly altered since the census of 1901 by the transfer of territory to and from the Balághát District, and the adjusted figures are 2,530 square miles and 178,771 persons. The tahsil contains one town, MANDLA, the tahsil and District headquarters, population 5,428, and 980 inhabited villages. The density of population per square mile is 70 persons. Excluding 906 square miles of Government forest, 44 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 608 square miles, and the land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 90,000 and that for cesses Rs. 14,000. The tahsil contains some open tracts of good land on the south-west, while the rest of it consists of a number of small and fertile valleys separated by hill ranges and forests. The eastern plateaux

are covered by nutritious grass, and form a well-known grazing area for cattle in the summer months.

Dindori.—The northern tahsil of the Mandla District, Central Provinces, lying between  $22^{\circ} 26'$  and  $23^{\circ} 23'$  N. and  $80^{\circ} 20'$  and  $81^{\circ} 45'$  E., with an area of 2,524 square miles. The population in 1901 was 139,629 persons, and in 1891 was 145,413. The tahsil contains 854 inhabited villages and the density of population is 55 persons per square mile. The headquarters are situated at Dindori, a village with 945 residents, distant 64 miles from Mandla by road. Excluding 912 square miles of Government forest, 48 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The land revenue demand in 1903-04 was Rs. 83,000 and that for cesses Rs. 10,000. The tahsil consists mainly of masses of precipitous hills covered with forest, with small and sometimes very fertile valleys bordering the numerous streams, and partly of a treeless undulating plain much cut up by nullahs.

Mandla Town.—Headquarters town of the Mandla tahsil and District, Central Provinces, situated in  $22^{\circ} 30'$  N. and  $80^{\circ} 23'$  E., 60 miles south-east of Jubbulpore by road, and 22 miles from Nainpur junction on the narrow gauge Jubbulpore-Gondia line. The town is picturesquely situated in a loop of the river Narbadá which surrounds it on three sides, and for 15 miles between Mandla and Rámnagar flows in a deep bed unbroken by rocks. Population (1901) 5,423. Mandla was made the capital of the Gond Garhá-Mandla dynasty about 1670. The Gonds erected a fort and built a palace. Their successors, the Maráthás, built a wall on the side of the town not protected by the river, which has lately been demolished. Mandla was held by a Maráthá garrison in 1818, and was taken by assault by the British. It contains numerous gháts leading down to the Narbadá, and some modern temples. Rámnagar, the site of a Gond palace, is ten miles from Mandla. The town was created a municipality in 1867, and the average municipal receipts for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 7,400. In 1903-04 the receipts were Rs. 7,000, and were principally derived from a house tax and tolls on roads and ferries. The principal industry is the manufacture of vessels from bell-metal. A number of betel-vine

MANDLA  
TAHSIL.

DINDORI.

MANDLA  
TOWN.

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DISTRICT.  
Geology.

The District is covered by the Deccan trap, except on the southern and south-eastern borders, where gneissic rocks prevail.

Botany

The forests are extensive and form a thick belt along the northern and southern hills, with numerous isolated patches in the interior. In the north they are stunted and scanty, and the open country is bare of trees, and presents a bleak appearance, the villages consisting of squalid-looking collections of mud huts perched generally on a bare ridge. In the rice tracts, on the other hand, the vegetation is luxuriant, and fruit trees are scattered over the open country and round the villages. Owing to the abundance of wood the houses are large and well built, and surrounded by bamboo fences enclosing small garden plots. The northern forests have much teak but usually of small size, and there is also teak along the Wainganga river; the forests in the south-east are principally composed of bamboos. The open country in the south is wooded with trees and groves of *mahua* (*Bassia latifolia*), *tendu* or ebony (*Diospyros tomentosa*), *achar* (*Buchanania latifolia*) and fruit trees, such as mango and tamarind.

Fauna.

Tiger and panther are not very common, but deer are found in considerable numbers and both land and water birds are fairly frequent in different parts of the District.

Climate.

The climate is cool and pleasant, excessive heat being rarely felt even in the summer months.

Rainfall.

The annual rainfall is 53 inches. In the 30 years previous to 1866 the rainfall was only once less than 30 inches, in 1867-68. Irregular distribution is however not uncommon.

History.

From the inscription on a copper plate found in Soni combined with others in the Ajanta caves, it has been concluded that a line of princes, the Vakataks dynasty, was ruling on the Satpura plateau from the third century, the name of the perhaps semi-mythical hero who founded it being given as Vindhyaśakti. Little is known of this dynasty except the names of ten princes, and the fact that they contracted alliances with other and better known ruling houses. The architectural remains at Deogarh and Lakhnadon may, however, be attributed to them or their successors, as they could not have been constructed by the Gonds. History is

then a blank until the sixteenth century, when Seoni fell under the dominion of the rising Gond dynasty of Garhā-Mandlā. Ghansor, Chauri, and Dongartāl were three of the fifty-two forts included in the possessions of Rājā Sangrām Sālī in 1530, and the territories attached to these made up the bulk of the present District. A century and a half afterwards the Mandlā Rājā was obliged to call in the help of Bakht Buland, the Deogarh prince, to assist in the suppression of a revolt of two Pathān adventurers, and in return for this ceded to him the territories now constituting Seoni. Bakht Buland came to take possession of his new dominions, and was engaged one day in a hunting expedition near Seoni, when he was attacked by a wounded bear. An unknown Pathān adventurer Tāj Khān came to his assistance and killed the bear, and Bakht Buland was so pleased with his dexterous courage that he made him governor of the Dongartāl talukā, then in a very unsettled condition. When Seoni, with the rest of the Deogarh kingdom, was seized by Raghujī Bhonsla, Muhammad Khān, the son of Tāj Khān, held out in Dongartāl for three years on behalf of his old master, and Raghujī finally, in admiration of his fidelity, appointed him governor of Seoni-Chhapāra with the title of Dīwān, and his descendants continued to administer the District until shortly before the cession. In the beginning of the 19th century Chhapāra, at that period a large and flourishing town with 2,000 Pathān fighting men, was sacked by the Pindāris during the absence of the garrison at Nāgpur and utterly ruined. A tomb-stone near the Wain-gangā bridge still marks the site where 40,000 persons are said to have been buried in a common grave.<sup>1</sup>

Seoni became British territory in 1818 being ceded by the treaty which followed the battle of SITABALDI. During the Mutiny the tranquillity of the District was disturbed only by the revolt of a Lodhī landholder in the north, who joined the rebels of Jubbulpore and Narsinghpur; they established themselves on some hills overlooking the Jubbulpore road near Sukrī, from which they made excursions to harm and

<sup>1</sup>According to another account the 40,000 perished in a battle between the rulers of Seoni and Mandlā.



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plunder villages. The rebels were dispersed and the country pacified on the arrival of the Nagpur Irregulars at the end of 1857. The representative of the Diwán family firmly supported the British Administration. In 1873 the bulk of the old Katangi taluk of Seoni was transferred to Bálághát, and 51 villages below the gháts to Nagpur, while Seoni received accessions of 122 villages, including the Adegaon taluka from Chhindwára, and of 8 villages from Mandlú.

## Archæology.

The archæological remains are of little importance. At Ghansor in the Seoni taluk are the ruins of numerous Jain temples, now only heaps of cut and broken stone, and several tanks. Ashtá, 28 miles from Seoni in the Barghát tract, contains three temples built of cut stone without cement. There are three similar temples in Lakhnádón and some sculptures in the taluk. Bísápur near Kurai has an old temple which is said to have been built by Soná Rání, widow of the Gond Rájá Bhopat, and a favourite popular heroine. The ruins of her palace and an old fort are also to be seen at Amodágarh near Ughí on the Hirí river. Along the southern spurs of the Sátpurás, the remains of a number of other Gond forts are visible at Umargarh, Bhainságarh, Parlágarh, and Kohwágarh.

## The people.

The population of the District at the last three enumerations has been as follows: 1891, 335,997; 1891, 370,767; 1901, 327,709. Between 1881 and 1891 the District prospered, and the rate of increase was about the same as that for the Province as a whole. Between 1891 and 1901 the decrease of 11½ per cent. was due to bad seasons and emigration to Assam. The principal statistics in 1901 are shown below:—

Taluk.	Area in square miles.	Number of		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Seoni	1,019	1	677	103,394	117	-12.3	4,399
Lakhnádón	1,539	...	712	155,315	87	-10.7	2,761
District Total	2,558	1	1,389	257,709	102	-11.0	7,160

The statistics of religion show that 55 per cent. of the population are Hindus, 40 per cent. Animists, and about 4½ per cent. Muhammadans. There are some large Muhammadan landlords, the principal one being the representative of the Diwán's family, who holds a considerable estate, the Gondí taluka, on quit-rent tenure. The people are for the most part immigrants from the north-west, and rather more than 50 per cent. of the population speak the Bundeli dialect of Western Hindi. Urdú is the language of nearly 11,000 of the Muhammadans and Káyashtis, and about 20,000 persons in the south-east of the District below the hills speak Maráthi. The Ponwárs have a dialect of their own akin to those of Rájputána, and Gondí is spoken by 102,000 persons or rather more than 75 per cent. of the number of Gonds in the District.

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Gonds number 130,000 or 10 per cent. of the population. Their castes and occupations. They have lost many of their villages, but the important estates of Sarekhá and Dhúma belong to Gond landlords. Ahírs number 31,000, Mális 10,000 and the menial caste of Mehrís (weavers and labourers) 19,000. Lodhís (5,000) and Kurmís (8,000) are important cultivating castes. Baniás (2,000) have now acquired over a hundred villages. Another landholding caste are the Bágri Rájputs, who possess between 60 and 70 villages and are fairly prosperous. The Ponwárs, (16,000), are the landowners in the rice tracts of Barghát and Uglí. They are industrious, skilled in irrigation, and take an interest in cattle-breeding. About 70 per cent. of the whole population of the District were shown as engaged in agriculture in 1901.

Christians number 153, of whom 105 are natives. A Christian mission of the original Free Church of Scotland is maintained in the town of Seoni. Christian Missions.

Over the greater part of the District area the soil is formed from the decomposition of trap rock. The best black soil is very rare, covering only one per cent. of the cultivated area, and the bulk of the land on the plateaux or in the valleys is black and brown soil, mixed to a greater or less extent with sand or limestone grit, which covers 49 per cent. of the cultivated area. There is a large quantity of inferior red and General agricultural conditions.

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stony land on which only the minor millets and *rot* can be grown. Lastly, in the rice tracts of Seoni, is found light sandy soil, not in itself of any great fertility but responding readily to manure and irrigation. The land of the Seoni tahsil is generally superior to that of Lakhnādon.

Chief agricultural  
statistics  
and crops.

About 236 square miles are held wholly or partially free of revenue, the bulk of this area being comprised in the large Gordi taluk which belongs to the Dīwān family. Nearly 7,000 acres have been sold outright under the Waste Land Rules, and 180 square miles, consisting partly of land which was formerly Government forest and partly of villages of escheated estates, are being settled on the ryotwari system. The remaining area is held on the ordinary tenures. The principal agricultural statistics in 1903-04 are shown below, areas being in square miles:—

Tahsil.	Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated.	Culturable waste.	Forests.
Seoni	1,648	712	51	463	403
Lakhnādon	1,658	663	1	454	360
Total	3,306	1,375	52	917	763

The principal crops are wheat, *kodon* and rice. Wheat occupied 365 square miles or about 32 per cent. of the cropped area, the greater part being in the Haveli and Ghansor tracts. Only 3 per cent. of the fields classed as fit to grow wheat are embanked. *Kodon* and *lutli*, the light autumn millets, were sown in 195 square miles, or 17 per cent. of the cropped area. Rice occupied about 114 square miles, or 8 per cent. of the cropped area. It has decreased in popularity during the last few years, owing to the distribution of the rainfall having been generally unfavourable, and the area under it at present is about 50 square miles less than at settlement. Rice is generally transplanted, only about 20 per cent. of the total area being sown broadcast in normal years. Linseed, *til* and other oilseeds, gram, lentils, *tiura*, *jowar* and cotton are the other crops. *Jowar* and cotton have lately increased in popularity, while the area under linseed has greatly fallen off.

A great deal of new land has been broken up since the settlement of 1897, the increase in cultivated area up to the last settlement (1894—1896) amounting to 50 per cent. A considerable proportion of the new land is of inferior quality and requires periodical resting fallows. The three coulters sowing drill and weeding harrow used by cultivators of the Deccan for *jowar* have lately been introduced into Seoni. Flax or *san-hemp* is a profitable minor crop, which has recently come into favour. No very considerable sums have been taken under the Land Improvement Act, the total amount borrowed between 1894 and 1904 being Rs. 29,000. Nearly 2½ lakhs have been given out in agricultural loans.

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DISTRICT.  
Improvements  
in agricultural  
practice.

Cattle are bred principally in the Kurai tract and the north of the Lakshnādan tahsil. The Gahis and Gohars in Kurai are professional cattle-breeders, and keep bulls. Large white bullocks are reared, and sold in Nagpur and Berar, where they fetch Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 a pair as yearlings. The Lakshnādan bullocks are smaller, and the majority are of a grey colour. Frequently no special bulls are kept and the immature males are allowed to mix with the cows before castration. Gonds and poor Muhammadans sometimes use cows for ploughing, especially when they are barren. In the rice tracts buffaloes are used for cultivation. Small ponies are bred and are used for riding in the Haveli, especially during the rains. Sheep are not numerous, but considerable numbers of goats are bred by ordinary agriculturists both for food and for religious offerings. Lakshnādan has an especially good breed of goats.

Cattle, ponies,  
and sheep.

About 16 square miles of rice land and 2,000 acres of sugarcane and garden crop land are classed as irrigable, and this area was shown as irrigated in the year of settlement. In 1903-04 the irrigated area was only 6 square miles, owing to the unfavourable rainfall, which was insufficient to fill the tanks. About 18 square miles are irrigated from tanks and 4,000 acres from wells and other sources in a good year. Rice is watered from tanks, both by percolation and by cutting the embankments. Sugarcane and garden crops are supplied from wells. There are about 650 tanks and 1,500 wells.

The Government forests cover an area of 5½ square miles of which 11 have been demarcated for disposal and

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settlement on ryotwári tenure. They are well distributed in all parts of the District. Teak and *sáj* (*Terminalia tomentosa*) are the chief timber trees, the best teak growing in the Kurai range, where there are three plantations. Bamboos are also plentiful. *Mahúd* and lac are the most important minor products. The revenue for 1903-04 amounted to Rs. 63,000.

## Minerals

Iron is found in the Kurai range in the south of the District and was formerly extracted by native methods, but has now been displaced by English iron. Other deposits occur in the valley of the Hirri river. In Khairá on the Sagar river, 28 miles from Seoni towards Mandlá, coal has been discovered, and a prospecting license granted. The sands of the Pachdhár and Báwanthari rivers have long been washed for gold in insignificant quantities. An inferior kind of mica has been met with in Rákhari on the Seoni-Nágar road and the hills near it. A smooth greyish-white chalk is obtained near Chhapára on the north bank of the Waingangá. Light-coloured amethysts and topazes are found among the rocks in the Adegaon tract. A good hard stone is obtained from quarries in the hills and in the villages of Chakkí-Khamariá, Janáwarkhedá and Khankará, from which grind-stones, rolling-slabs and mortars are made, and sold all over Seoni and the adjoining Districts of Chhindwára and Bhandára.

Arts and  
Manufactures.

The weaving of coarse country cloth is carried on in several villages, principally at Seoni, Barghát, and Chhapára. Tassar silk cloth was formerly woven at Seoni, but the industry is nearly extinct. Country cloth is dyed in Mungwáni, Chhapára, Káharí, and other villages, *ál* (Indian madder) being still used, though it has to a large extent been supplanted by the imported German dye. In Adegaon the *amohori* green cloths are dyed with a mixture of madder and myrabolams. Glass bangles are made from imported glass at Chaonri, Pátan and Chhapára, and lac bangles at Seoni, Chhapára, Bakhári, and Lakhnádon. Earthen vessels are made in several villages, those of Kaniwára and Pachdhár having a special reputation. These are universally used for keeping water, and also for the storage of such articles as grain and *ghí*, while Muhammadans and Gonds employ them as cooking vessels. Iron implements are made at

Piparwāni in the Kurai tract from English scrap iron and are used throughout the south of the District, the Lakhnādon tahsīl obtaining its supplies from Narsinghpur and Jubbulpore. Skins are tanned and leather-work is done at Khawāsa.

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Wheat is the principal export, but rice is exported to Chhindwāra and the Narbadā valley, and hemp fibre is sent to Calcutta, often to the value of four or five lakhs of rupees annually. Gram and oilseeds are exported to some extent, and also the oil of the *Kasār* plant, a variety of safflower, which is very prickly and is sown at the borders of wheat fields to keep out cattle. The exports of forest produce are teak, *sāj*, *bījāsūl* (*Pterocarpus marsupium*) and bamboos for building, *mahūd* oil, lac, *chironjī* (the fruit of *Buchanania latifolia*) and myrabolams. *Ghī*, cotton, and hides and horns are also exported. Salt comes principally from the marshes near Ahmadābād and to a less extent from Bombay. Both sugar and *gur* are obtained from the United Provinces, and the latter also from Chhindwāra. Cotton piece-goods are brought both from Bombay and Calcutta, and are now generally worn by the better classes, in place of hand-made cloth. Betel-leaves, turmeric and catechu are imported from surrounding Districts. Superior country-made shoes come from Calcutta and Delhi. The trade in grain and *ghī* is principally in the hands of Agarwāl and Parwār Baniās, and there are one or two shops of Cutchī Muhammadans. The centre of the timber trade is at Kurai, and wholesale dealers come from Kamptee to make purchases. Barghāt is the most important weekly market, and after it Gopālganj, Kanivāra and Keolāri.

Commerce.

The narrow-gauge Sālpurā extension of the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway has recently (1904) been constructed. A branch line runs from Nainpur junction in Mandlā through Seonī to Chhindwāra, following closely the direction of the Seonī-Mandlā and Seonī-Chhindwāra roads, the length of line in the District being 55 miles. The main connecting line between Gondīā and Jubbulpore also crosses the north-eastern portion of the Lakhnādon tahsīl, with stations at Ghansor, Bināikī, and Shikāra, and a length of line in the District of 20 miles. The great northern road from Nāgpur to Jubbulpore, metalled

Railways and  
Roads.

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and bridged throughout, except at the Narbadá, passes from south to north of the District. The trade of the District has hitherto been almost entirely along this road, that of the portion south from Chhapára going to Kamptee, and of the northern part of the Lakhnádon tahsil to Jubbulpore. Roads have also been constructed from Seoni to Chhindwára, Mandlā, Bálághát and Katangí, along which produce is brought from the interior. From the hilly country in the east and west of the Lakhnádon tahsil carriage has hitherto been by pack-bullocks, and all over the rest of the District by carts. The length of metalled roads is 133 and of unmetalled roads 116 miles, all of these being maintained by the Public Works department. The maintenance charges in 1903-04 were Rs. 64,000. Avenues exist for short and broken lengths on the principal roads.

## Famine.

From 1823 to 1827 the District suffered from a succession of short crops due to floods, hail and blight, resulting in the desertion of many villages. In 1833-34 the autumn rains failed and a part of the spring crop area was left unsown. Grain was imported by Government from Chhattísgarh. The winter rains were excessive in 1851-55, and the spring crops were totally destroyed by rust. In 1868 the monsoon failed in August, and the year's rainfall was only about half the normal, but a heavy storm in September saved a portion of the crops. Distress was not severe in Seoni, and the people made great use of forest produce. From 1893 to 1895 the winter rains were abnormally heavy and the spring crops were damaged by rust, and this was followed in 1895 and 1896 by early cessation of the rains; in the former year the autumn crops failed partially, and in the latter completely, while in 1896 a considerable portion of the spring crop area could not be sown owing to the dryness of the land. There was severe famine during the year 1897; 44 lakhs were expended on relief, the numbers rising to 19,000 or 5 per cent. of the population in September. In 1899-1900 Seoni had a very bad autumn, and a moderate spring harvest. The distress was considerable but not acute, the numbers on relief rising to 45,000 or 12 per cent. of the population, and the total expenditure being 6·6 lakhs.

The Deputy Commissioner is aided by one Extra-Assistant Commissioner. For administrative purposes the District is divided into two tahsils, each of which has a tahsildár and naib-tahsildár. The District staff includes a Forest Officer, but public works are in charge of the Executive Engineer of Jubbulpore.

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DISTRICT.  
District Sub-  
division and  
staff.

The Civil Staff consists of a District and one Subordinate Judge, and a Munsiff at each tahsil. The Divisional and Sessions Judge of the Jubbulpore Division has jurisdiction in Seoni. The crime of the District is light and presents no special features.

Civil and  
Criminal  
Justice.

Neither the Gond nor Maráthá Governments recognised any kinds of right in land, and the cultivators were only protected by the strong custom enjoining hereditary tenure. The rule of the Gonds was never oppressive, but the policy of the Maráthás was latterly directed to the extortion of the largest possible revenue. Rents were generally collected direct, and leases of villages were granted only for very short terms. The measure, however, which contributed most largely towards the impoverishment of the country was the levy of the revenue before the crops on which it was charged could be cut and sold. In 1810, eight years before coming under British rule, it was reported that Seoni had paid a revenue of more than three lakhs of rupees, but in the interval the exactions of the last Maráthá sovereign, Appa Sáhib, and the depredations of the Pindáris, had caused the annual realizations to shrink to less than half this sum. The period of short-term settlements, which followed the commencement of our administration, constituted in Seoni, as elsewhere in the Central Provinces, a series of attempts to realize a revenue equal to, or higher than, that nominally paid to the Maráthás, from a District whose condition had seriously deteriorated. Three years after cession the demand rose to 1·76 lakhs. The revenue, however, could not be realized, and in 1835 a settlement for 20 years reduced the demand to 1·34 lakhs. Even under this greatly decreased assessment some portions of the District broke down, and the revenue was revised. The rise of prices beginning about 1861, however, restored prosperity, and revived the demand for land, and at the next revision a large enhancement was made. The completion of

Land Revenue  
administration.



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the settlement was retarded for ten years owing to the disturbances consequent on the Mutiny, and it took effect from 1864-65. The revised revenue amounted to 2.27 lakhs on the District as it then stood, or to 1.62 on the area now constituting Seoni, and was fixed for 30 years. During its currency the seasons were generally favourable, prices rose, and cultivation extended. When records were attested for revision in 1894-95, it was found that the cultivated area had increased by 50 per cent. since the preceding settlement, and that the prices of agricultural produce had doubled. The new assessment took effect from the years 1896 to 1898, and was made for a term of 11 to 12 years, a shorter period than the usual 20 years being adopted in order to produce a regular rotation of District settlements. Under it the revenue was enhanced to 2.93 lakhs, or by 78 per cent. The new revenue absorbs 48 per cent of the assets, and the average revenue incidence per cultivated acre is R. 0-5-9 (maximum R. 0-9-4, minimum R. 0-2-4), while the corresponding figure for rental is R. 0-10-10 (maximum R. 0-15-9, minimum R. 0-6-6). The revenue receipts from land and all sources have been (in thousands of rupees):—

	1880-81.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-04.
Land revenue	1,54	1,64	2,83	2,70
Total revenue	3,04	4,07	4,70	5,42

Local Boards  
and Municipa-  
lities.

Local affairs outside the municipal area of SEONI are entrusted to a District council and two local boards. The income of the District council in 1903-04 was Rs. 50,000. The expenditure on civil works was Rs. 10,000, on education Rs. 15,000 and on medical relief Rs. 5,000.

Police and  
Jails.

The police force consists of 278 officers and men, including 3 mounted constables, under a District Superintendent, and 1,552 constables in 1,390 inhabited towns and villages. Seoni has a District jail with accommodation for 162 prisoners, including 16 females. The daily average number of prisoners in 1904 was 53.

## Education.

In respect of education the District stands eleventh in the Province, 4.8 per cent. of the male population being able

to read and write in 1901, while only 335 females were returned as literate. The percentage of children under instruction to those of school-going age is 8. Statistics of the number of pupils under instruction are as follows: 1880-81, 1,786; 1890-91, 2,564; 1900-01, 3,420; 1903-04, 4,344, including 337 girls. The educational institutions comprise a high school at Seoni supported by the Scotch Free Church Mission; two English middle schools, four vernacular middle and 60 primary schools, of which 5 are girls' schools. The expenditure on education in 1903-04 was Rs. 36,000, of which Rs. 20,000 were provided from Provincial and local funds and Rs. 8,000 from fees.

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The District has five dispensaries, with accommodation for 56 in-patients. In 1904, 25,774 cases, of which 383 were those of in-door patients, were treated and 611 operations were performed. The expenditure for 1904 was Rs. 8,000, the greater part of which was paid from Provincial and local funds.

Hospitals  
and dispensaries.

Vaccination is compulsory in the municipal town of Seoni. The number of persons successfully vaccinated in 1903-04 was 51 per 1,000 of the District population, a very favourable result.

(Khán Bahádur Aulád Husain, *Settlement Report*, 1899; R. A. Sterndale, *Scence, or Camp Life on the Satpura Range*, 1877.)

Seoni Tahsil.—The southern tahsil of the Seoni District, Central Province, situated between 21° 36' and 22° 24' N. and 79° 19' and 80° 8' E., with an area of 1,648 square miles. The population in 1901 was 192,364 persons, and in 1891 was 219,284. The tahsil contains one town, SEONI, the headquarters of the District and tahsil, population 11,864, and 677 inhabited villages. The density of population is 117 persons per square mile. Excluding 468 square miles of Government forest, 60 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 712 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 1,69,000 and that for cesses Rs. 21,000. The western portion of the tahsil towards Chhindwara consists of a fertile black soil plain, while on the south and

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